

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

1 Bismarcks-Solomons: One B-25 harasses Vunakanau, while 8 F4Us demolish plantation buildings in central New Ireland. Eight TBFs attack AA positions on S Bougainville.

New Guinea: Boiken personnel areas, Boram airstrip, and targets in Wewak area receive about 56 tons from 13 Beauforts, 12 B-24s, 4 P-38s, and 4 P-47s; 6 B-25s operate over Kairiru and Mushu islands with small tonnage. Extensive activity in DNG area: 9 P-40s strafe Idore, Windehsi, and trail to Bintoeni Bay; 15 P-38s are over Fak Fak with 7 tons; 48 A-20s and 4 B-25s attack Utarom airdrome with more than 50 tons of bombs, and 34 RAAF P-40s employ strafing and 11 tons of bombs at Doom I.; 9 B-25s returning from Celebes bomb Jefman and Samate airfields with 15½ tons; night fighter destroys enemy plane which causes light casualties during raid on Sansapor.

N.E.I.: Celebes-Halmahera Area: Nine B-25s loose 9 tons on Manado town, firing barge, while 9 others drop like tonnage on buildings in Lembah I. area. Langoan town fired and airstrip cratered in 32-ton attack by 12 B-24s; Kakas bivouacs fired with 6 tons of incendiaries from 10 B-25s; Bolaangoeki warehouses destroyed and waterfront installations set aflame with 6 tons of GP and more than 2 tons of incendiaries loosed by 10 B-25s. Four B-25s demolish small shipping in S Halmahera patrol; in Wasile Bay and Makian I. area, 8 P-38s and 2 B-25s also harass minor shipping. Enemy plane destroyed and 1 damaged by AA fire in enemy air attacks on Morotai.

Banda Sea Area: In A-20, B-24, and P-38 attacks on airfields more than 109 tons of bombs dropped: 18 RAAF and U.S. B-24s raining 41 tons on Laha cause extensive damage to barracks and runways and kindle fires; intense AA damages 5 planes; 8 RAAF A-20s and 32 P-38s hit Amahai and Kairatoe runways with more than 14 tons, while 2 B-24s drop over 3 tons on Liang revetments; 4 of the P-38s damage 30 sailboats E. of Haroekoe; 50 tons expended in raids by 64 P-47s, 32 A-20s, and 2 B-25s which render Langgoer airfield ineffective and cause considerable damage at Faan and Doeroa airdromes. In Waroe Bay area, huts demolished in bombing and strafing attack by 6 RAAF P-40s and 1 B-25. Large barge off Timor hit by 2 Dutch B-25s which also bomb Saumlakki; enemy targets at Fuiloro and C. Chater attacked by 3 B-24s.

Philippine Is.: Near Zamboanga, PB4Y destroys 2 medium vessels, 1 schooner, and 2 barges, while another PB4Y destroys 2 floatplanes, 1 flying boat, 1 fuel-laden barge, and damages 5 other floatplanes; 3d PB4Y destroys 1 barge and 1 schooner.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~Oct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

1,000-ton vessels listing. In same area, at Wolfe field, 2 heavies blast 3 enemy planes and strafe personnel.

2

Bismarcks-Solomons: Rabaul building area harassed by 17 F4Us; bridges and huts on New Ireland destroyed by 20 SBDs and 41 F4Us. Bivouacs and huts at Numa Numa and on Shortland Is. attacked by 72 F4Us, 29 SBDs, and 9 B-25s; at night B-25s harass Kahili targets.

New Guinea: Six B-24s, 6 B-25s, and 12 Beauforts loose approximately 33½ tons in Wewak area, hitting airfield and destroying huts; B-24s covered by 3 P-47s. Ransiki and Otawiri bivouacs are targets for 9 strafing P-40s. Sixteen RAAF P-40s crater Babo runways and revetments, strafe village near Idore and Utarom runways and dumps, and damage barges near Kaimana, while 4 others strafe 3 small vessels off Misool I.

N.E.I.: Celebes-Halmahera Area: Large fires result from 35-ton attack by 24 B-24s on Makassar oil storage tanks and waterfront installations; B-24 bombs Gorantalo village; PBV attacks lugger in Amoerang Bay. Over SE Halmahera, 8 B-25s destroy jetties and attack Weda village; buildings at Laboeha on Batjan I. demolished by 3 B-25s.

Banda Sea Area: Small shipping, airfields, and other installations in Ceram-Ambon area are targets for Allied fighters and bombers: 2 RAAF A-20s, 10 RAAF P-40s, 4 Beaufighters, 5 B-25s, and 10 P-38s attack buildings and small craft; in pre-dawn strikes, 4 B-24s drop 3 tons on both Laha and Kairatoe revetments; during day 18 start fires at Haroekoe with 40 tons, and 22 with almost 50 tons crater Laha airfield, start fires, and probably destroy 1 grounded plane; 6 unaggressive enemy fighters airborne over Haroekoe; 45 P-38s bomb Kairatoe runways and dispersal areas with 9½ tons and bomb and strafe Amahai airdrome area with 10; at night navy plane hits lugger at Liang and silences shore battery in same area. B-25s bomb and strafe villages on coast of Boeroe and Besar islands. Explosion caused in RAAF B-25 raid on Doka Barat (Aroe) village. Two B-24s attack Fuiloro; at night 3 RAAF heavies strafe and fire Lautem buildings.

3

Bismarcks-Solomons: Large-scale activity resumed: huts and MT in Rabaul area and Gazelle Peninsula bombed by 22 SBDs and 66 F4Us; buildings and bridges on New Ireland destroyed

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

3 in strike by 6 B-25s, 15 F4Us, and 3 SBDs. At night B-25s
Cont harass Rabaul and Kavieng. Shortland bivouacs and N Bougain-
ville targets attacked by 8 B-25s and 32 F4Us.

New Guinea: Ten Beauforts, 5 B-24s, and 5 B-25s loose
29 tons on villages in Wewak area. Twenty-four P-40s destroy
buildings and start oil fires at Fak Fak and bomb Otawiri
bivouacs with 7 tons; additional 16 RAAF P-40s strafe small
shipping and bomb Babo runways; 35 A-20s and 1 B-25 blast
airstrip with 35 tons. Four P-38s attack Samate and strafe
barges in Piroe Bay. Few casualties caused and some damage
rendered in 2 lone enemy raids over Sansapor.

N.E.I.: Borneo; Pandansari refinery and coolie barracks
in Balikpapan area bombed by 40 B-24s with 46 tons; direct
hits scored on kerosene storage tank, oil drum factory,
barracks, and other installations; fires result; 19 of
approximately 60 airborne interceptors destroyed, 5 probably
destroyed, and 4 damaged in hour-long air battle; 7 B-24s
destroyed, a record loss; 25 damaged but return to base; some
AA encountered.

Celebes-Halmahera Area: Third Bn, 155th Inf (31st Div) attacks
enemy hill position 5 mi. N of Pitoe airstrip in Pilowa
area, killing 9 Japanese, while 116th FA Bn, in support,
accounts for 20.

Three B-24s with 4 tons attack Ambesia airdrome, while
another destroys barge on NW coast and hits Gorantale
village with ton of bombs; navy planes continue to harass
shipping in area. Sanana town and boat-building center
attacked by 10 B-25s which also sink lugger and sea truck;
at Galela, enemy grounded planes destroyed by 8 P-38s; 36
B-25s bomb Kaeo airfield. One enemy plane airborne over
Morotai before dawn.

Banda Sea Area: Enemy installations and minor shipping
in Ceram-Ambon area targets for Allied fighters and bombers:
Laha bivouacs and runways fired by 33 B-24s dropping
approximately 83 tons of bombs; 1 grounded enemy fighter
probably destroyed; moderate-intense AA met. Halong seaplane
base at Ambon attacked by 54 P-38s with 27 tons; flying boat
destroyed and other aircraft damaged. Thirty-one P-38s, 3
B-24s, and 4 B-25s cause large explosion at Haroekoe, crater
runway at old Namlea airdrome, and bomb Ambon villages; AA
accounts for 1 P-38. Five B-25s, 4 Beaufighters, 15 RAAF
P-40s, and 4 P-47s harass small shipping and shore installations.
Targets on Kei Is. and Timor hit by U.S. B-24s and RAAF A-20s
and P-40s.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

Philippine Is.: U.S. heavy bomber scores 2 direct hits and fires AK in San Rafael harbor in Zamboanga area.

4 Bismarcks-Solomons: Total of 44 F4Us and 26 SBDs attacks Gazelle Peninsula supply area, huts, and targets of opportunity; additional 58 F4Us and 48 SBDs destroy bridges and buildings along New Ireland coast; Rabaul and Kavieng harassed at night. Five B-25s, 28 F4Us, 6 SBDs, and 24 TBFs drop about 10 tons on Shortland bivouacs and on S Bougainville huts and bridges.

New Guinea: Six Beauforts and 5 B-24s score hits on AA positions in Wewak area and fire Maprik village area with 29½ tons; 4 RAAF P-40s strafe Kaimana area.

N.E.I.: Celebes-Halmahera Area: On Morotai, 126th Regt(32d Div) patrol from Posi Posi encounters 29 Japanese near mouth of Mira R. who flee when contacted; later garrison observes 20 at Saloma; kill 1 and scatter others to hills. With completion of Wama airstrip, operation INTERLUDE ends.

B-25s concentrate on Manado area: 40 start fires in Sidate revetment area, possibly damaging 2 grounded aircraft, damage Bolaangoeki warehouses, slipway, and sawmill, and sink or damage 4 luggers there; 2 destroy grounded plane and hit buildings in attack on Langoan runways. In attempt to render Galela and Kaoc airfields inoperational, 10 P-38s and 18 B-25s attack with 18 tons; 12 P-38s accompany B-25s; PB4Y drops beer bottles and bombs on Halmahera airdrome.

Banda Sea Area: Allied bombers again concentrate on Ceram-Ambon small shipping targets: 8 A-20s, 13 B-25s, and 23 RAAF P-40s bomb and strafe luggers, barges, coastal buildings, and villages, Halong wharf-control tower, radio station, and numerous small vessels in sweeps over area; 35 B-25s and 8 RAAF A-20s fire Ambon wharf area and hit buildings and gun positions in vicinity. B-24s again strike Kei. Is. and Timor.

Philippine Is.: At Zamboanga, B-24 attacks shipping at Jolo, in Sulu Archipelago; U.S. heavy bomber sinks 3,000-ton AK/AP and lugger, fires 1,000-ton vessel, and strafes 3 aircraft at Zettlefield; SW of Mindanao PB4Y sinks small AK, 1 tug, and 1 fuel barge.

5 Bismarcks-Solomons: Strong force of medium bombers, fighters, and dive bombers attacks Rabaul-New Ireland-Bougainville targets: buildings, supplies, gun positions fired and destroyed

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

in attack by 20 B-25s, 69 SBDs, and 117 F4Us against Gazelle Peninsula targets; MG positions and buildings on New Ireland destroyed; 47 New Zealand and Marine F4Us attack Buka mission and S Bougainville targets.

New Guinea: In Wewak area, 7 B-24s with 24 tons, 12 Beauforts with almost 10 tons, and 3 A-20s attack C. Moen, Mushu I., and Maprik; 6 B-25s hit C. Moen and Wewak targets with $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons; 30 tons dropped on Sarmi bivouac and supply areas by 85 A-20s; fires started; ground fire accounts for 1 A-20; A-20 also destroyed over Wakde by SA fire. Babo runways and supply areas receive 14 tons from 32 P-47s; 8 P-40s with about $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons attack buildings, strafe trails, and fire targets at Utarom; 10 B-25s bomb Doom I. targets, starting fires; 14 P-38s crater runways and bomb revetments at Samate and Jefman with 7 tons; 8 RAAF P-40s attack prahus and barges near Sakar and Misool I.

N.E.I.: Celebes-Halmahera Area: Enemy 1,000-ton vessel sunk and 3,000-ton AK fired by B-24 in Gulf of Tomini. All buildings in Langoan training area wholly or partially destroyed by 11 B-25s with over 7 tons of incendiaries; 32 B-24s strike Ambesia and Witacola airfields with 53 tons of bombs, claiming 2 grounded enemy planes destroyed, 2 others probably destroyed on Ambesia strip, and approximately 4 probably destroyed or damaged on Witacola; hits also scored on Ambesia dispersal areas. At night 3 B-24s with $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of incendiaries fire Manado targets. B-25 attacks Sanana.

Banda Sea Area: In Ceram, Gorong, Kakas, and Timor areas, 14 RAAF P-40s, 4 B-25s, 4 RAAF A-20s, and 4 Beaufighters demolish huts and buildings and hit small shipping; 12 P-38s abortive due to weather. Kairatoe attacked by 15 P-38s with $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons; Ambon town bombed through clouds by 25 B-25s and 7 P-38s with more than 20 tons; Ambon barracks receive 21 tons from 10 B-24s. Australian B-24 harasses Fuiloro targets of opportunity.

Philippine Is.: B-24 strafes 5 1,000-ton vessels in Zamboanga area.

6

Bismarcks-Solomons: Heavy raids persist: 8 B-25s, 66 F4Us, and 36 SBDs damage guns and buildings at Vunakanau and damage huts and buildings during Gazelle Peninsula sweep; 5 aircraft damaged. Bridge and buildings hit and huts damaged in attack on New Ireland by 41 F4Us and 18 SBDs. Numa Numa and Buka targets of opportunity attacked by 30 SBDs and 28 F4Us.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

New Guinea: Twelve Beauforts attack villages and huts S of But; Boram dispersals and guns bombed by 6 B-25s; 6 B-24s expend 24 tons in raid on C. Moen fuel dump. Eight P-40s set villages and supplies afire and strafe bivouacs and trails W of Nabire; 6 RAAF P-40s hit MT at Ransiki, runways at Moemi; and strafe 17 Japanese E of Babo; 2 sink barges at Kaimana, and 4 bomb Utarom runway; slight AA at Kaimana; Kaimana also attacked by 15 P-47s with 7½ tons.

N.E.I.: Borneo: Night B-24 harasses Pandansari refinery at Balikpapan.

Celebes-Halmahera Area: Force of 24 B-24s dispatched to bomb Makassar before dawn; 20 cause large fires in vicinity of Shell, Standard Oil, and waterfront installations; 1 fires Mandai airfield (N of Makassar); another bombs Penfoei airfield (Timor); total of 33 tons dropped; 2 planes return without bombing. Six and a half tons loosed on Kaog runway by 13 P-38s which also strafe 2 small craft near Djailolo.

Banda Sea Area: Four RAAF A-20s, 24 RAAF P-40s, 39 P-38s, and 19 B-25s operate in Ceram-Ambon area: strike Amahai AA positions, personnel areas, and airdrome, and attack minor shipping in area; before dawn 4 B-24s with 4½ tons fire village near Dili; Penfoei airfield bombed by B-24.

7 Bismarcks-Solomons: Thirteen SBDs and 48 F4Us concentrate on buildings, bridges, and enemy positions in Wide Bay area, and Duke of York island; B-25s again harass Rabaul and Kavieng at night; 1 interceptor encountered over Kavieng; buildings and bridges along New Ireland coast destroyed in attack by 50 F4Us and 48 SBDs.

New Guinea: Villages and gun positions at Kairiru, S of But, and Boram receive more than 15 tons from 6 B-24s, 6 B-25s, and 3 A-20s; MG fire met. Total of 23 A-20s, 11 B-25s, and 56 RAAF P-40s looses more than 25 tons on Babo runways, strafes Fak Fak huts, bombs fuel dump on Doom I. with 11 tons, and fires stores off SE Kaimana; moderate AA met; 9 of 35 P-38s drop 4½ tons on Doom I. after weather prevents Ambon mission.

N.E.I.: Large building at Sanana (Soela I.) and 3 small boats in Ceram area destroyed by B-25.

Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera Area: Night B-24s over Balikpapan and Gorantalo encounter AA fire at former. Fires started at Manado fuel and storage dumps by 4 B-24s loosing over 6 tons; 20 B-25s with 10 tons bomb and strafe bivouacs in Langoan area, kindling fires and destroying warehouses; 10 P-38s unload 5 tons on Kaog runways, and 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

Beaufighters destroy barge in Bay; 12 P-38s strafe barges and cause explosions ashore at Sahoe, and 4 destroy barges near Galela. On Morotai enemy plane inflicts some damage and causes 7 casualties before P-61 claims it.

Banda Sea Area: Boela tank farm takes 10 tons from 28 P-38s; another sq attacks same target. Fires started in Ambon storage areas by 12 B-25s dropping 7 tons of bombs; 2 RAAF B-25s bomb Tapa village on Babar, while 3 RAAF B-24s render no apparent damage at C. Hero and Fuiloro.

Philippine Is.: Patrol planes destroy 4 enemy floatplanes at Caldera (Zamboanga) and damage enemy bomber on Wolfe field; 18 B-24s covered by 39 P-38s kindle large fires while hitting Zamboanga warehouses, buildings, and oil storage tank with 24½ tons; P-38s destroy 6 enemy fighters W of Zamboanga and sink 3 small craft.

8 Bismarcks-Solomons: Rabaul buildings attacked by 16 F4Us; buildings, bridges, and huts on New Ireland coast destroyed by 8 B-25s, 18 SBDs, and 43 F4Us with 37 tons of bombs; 64 F4Us hit Numa Numa bivouacs with more than 36 tons.

New Guinea: Fires started in Maprik personnel area by 16 Beauforts loosing almost 10 tons; Wewak gun positions take 6 tons from 5 A-20s and 5 B-25s drawing fire which damages 1 A-20; 4 P-38s fly cover mission. Utarom runway is target for 12 A-20s and B-25 with almost 9½ tons; 4 tons dropped on Doom I. by 8 B-25s; 31 RAAF planes cause fires and destroy and damage barges in bombing and strafing attack in Sorong, Babo, and Kaimana areas; 12 P-40s with 6 tons bomb radar station, supplies, and bivouacs in Kaimana area; 25 P-38s returning due to weather from Ceram bomb Doom I., Samate, and Jefman; Jef Doif I. (N of Salawati) dive-bombed by 11 RAAF P-40s.

N.E.I.: Celebes-Halmahera Area: Two B-24s fire Manado at night; B-25 bombs lighthouse in N Celebes. In 6-ton bombing and strafing sweep by 23 P-38s, fires are started in Kace and Wasile Bay areas. One of 2 enemy planes causing 12 casualties and some damage on Morotai is shot down by ground fire.

Banda Sea Area: Fifty-eight P-47s with 14 tons of bombs hit Boela town center and crater Amahai runway. On Ceram coastal patrol, 2 RAAF A-20s, 4 RAAF P-40s, and 3 Beaufighters strafe villages and barges. Seven P-38s hit Amahai. Two Dutch B-25s harass Trangan I. defenses; B-24s bomb Larat and Dili.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

9

Bismarcks-Solomons: In attacks on Gazelle Peninsula, revetments, huts, and targets of opportunity attacked by 24 SBDs and 60 F4Us; 9 B-25s, 28 SBDs, and 31 F4Us spread 29 tons over unspecified targets; 55 New Zealand and Marine F4Us hit Kieta, Buka, and Numa Numa, employing more than 14 tons.

New Guinea: Huts near Dagua fired by 11 Beauforts with 6½ tons; MG fire encountered. Two strafing P-40s damage barge, sawmill, and supplies S of Manokwari; medium-intense AA met; Babo runways cratered and Kaimana stores, guns, and barges strafed by 16 RAAF P-40s with 7½ tons of bombs; supply dumps at Doom I. exploded by 21 RAAF P-40s; 9 B-25s hit Samate, starting fires. Before dawn 2 of 5 enemy planes striking Noemfoor positions felled by AA.

N.E.I.: Borneo: Airfields at Manggar and Balikpapan attacked before dawn by 6 B-24s with 6 tons of bombs; 1 enemy airborne fighter refuses to intercept. Balikpapan also hit during day by single B-24.

Celebes-Halmahera Area: More than 25 tons rained on Galela, Kaeo, Lolobata, and Hatetabako airdromes by 48 P-38s and 7 B-25s which also strafe and start large fires; in Beaufighter sweep, 3 destroy or damage a number of barges; additional 17 P-38s sweep Morotai, destroying shipping.

Banda Sea Area: Supply-laden sailboat, jetties, and lugger strafed by 3 RAAF P-40s and B-25 in E Ceram and Manipa I. patrols. Total of 18 B-25s, 1 sq RAAF A-20s, 65 P-47s, and 39 P-38s attacks Liang runways, Boela oil installations, and Kairatoe and Laha airdromes with 57½ tons of bombs; fires started. Four bombers and 1 fighter grounded at old Namlea airfield damaged or destroyed by 35 P-38s and 15 B-25s with over 15 tons. Langoan and Faan airdromes raided by 16 P-47s and 9 RAAF A-20s with 13 tons. In central Banda Sea area, 4 Dutch B-25s bomb sea truck, 2 more bomb Selaroe airfield in Tanimbars; 2 RAAF B-25s and B-24 attack Saumlakki jetties; 7½ tons of bombs dropped. On Timor, Koepang waterfront is target for 6 RAAF and 18 U.S. B-24s which start fires and damage or destroy buildings including power house; 66 tons released; intense AA damages U.S. B-24. Buildings on Fuiloro destroyed by B-24.

10

Bismarcks-Solomons: Many buildings and supplies demolished and fired in attack by 8 B-25s, 64 SBDs, and 100 F4Us in Wide Bay, Ralum, and Rabaul areas; 14 F4Us attack Kavieng with 10 tons. Personnel killed and buildings

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

destroyed in strafing attack on Bougainville by 26 New Zealand and Marine F4Us and single SBD.

New Guinea: Thirteen Beauforts hit villages and huts in Wewak area. Three B-25s, 41 A-20s, and 31 RAAF and U.S. P-40s raid dumps at Sarmi, Japanese-manned rafts, villages and supplies in Bintoeni harbor area, Babo runway and jetty, small craft and guns at Kokas, and Utarom runways with 39 tons.

N.E.I.: Borneo: Continuing attacks on Balikpapan, 106 B-24s each with a bomb load of 1½ tons escorted by 25 P-47s and 11 P-38s cause heavy explosions and large fires in oil storage and paraffin plant areas; 55 of more than 60 enemy fighters encountered shot down for loss of 4 B-24s and 1 P-47. A total of 97 enemy fighters destroyed and 15 probably destroyed for loss of 17 B-24s and 1 fighter in last 3 Balikpapan raids.

Seven B-24s are over Balikpapan airdrome with 7 tons at night.

Celebes-Halmahera Area: Laboba warehouse and Sanana (Soela I.) bombed by B-24 and B-25 respectively. Kage and Hatetabako airdromes and dispersals receive 22 tons from 7 P-38s and sq of B-25s; Djailolo and Wasile town strafed and bombed by 8 P-38s which start fires and destroy 3 trucks in Wasile motor pool.

Banda Sea Area: Three RAAF P-40s attack sheds and small craft along Ceram coasts; Liang airfield cratered in attack by 16 P-47s with 4 tons. Six RAAF and 3 Dutch B-25s with 7 tons bomb and heavily strafe small craft and defenses NW of Koepang; MG fire claims 2 B-25s.

11 Bismarcks-Solomons: Weather cancels all strikes but 2: huts at Buka, Numa Numa, and S Bougainville destroyed by 58 F4Us and 1 TBF; 2 B-25s and 8 F4Us attack Kavieng with 2½ tons.

New Guinea: Poor visibility prevents assessment of damage inflicted at Boiken plantation by 6 RAAF P-40s. Sarmi troop concentrations bombed and strafed by 18 A-20s. Australian P-40s again concentrate on Vogelkop area: 22 hit camouflaged truck area, landing stage, and houses; 12 score direct hits on Jefman buildings and partially destroy dump; 20 dive-bomb runways, AA positions, sheds, bridges, fuel drums, and barges in Kaimana area. Eight P-40s and 16 P-47s score hits on ammunition and fuel dumps at Babo and fire Kaimana supply area.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

N.E.I.: Twenty-one RAAF P-40s destroy, damage, or explode buildings, small crafts, derrick, and installations on Ceram, Gesar, and Kei Is.; more than 5 tons dropped; AA holes 1 plane.

Celebes-Halmahera Area: B-24 damages 1 of several enemy airborne seaplanes in Toli Toli Bay; 23 B-25s raid Langoan buildings and villages and warehouses along Koeandang Bay with 14 tons; 17 more hit Koeandang Bay area. Twenty P-38s concentrate on Halmahera targets with main attack on Miti runway; 15 tons dropped. Three tons loosed by 5 RAAF A-20s in Wasile and Kae Bay sweep. In enemy attack on Morotai, gas dumps, tents, and MT hit.

Banda Sea Area: Eleven tons dropped on Liang, Kairatoe, and Laha airdromes; 10 A-20s with 6 tons, 8 P-38s, and 1 B-25 strike Haroekoe and Namlea airdromes, warehouses at Wahai, and minor shipping in area. Langgoer dispersal areas attacked by 16 P-47s with 8 tons. Six RAAF B-24s raid Lautem defense positions with 8 tons; unobserved results.

Philippine Is.: U.S. B-24s and (3d Fleet) carrier-based aircraft strike airfields: before dawn Matina and Buayan airfields in Davao area receive $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons from 3 B-24s; Aparri airfield (N-Luzon) raided by 58 carrier aircraft in 2 waves which destroy 10-15 grounded planes and fire buildings and installations; no interference. In Leyte-Basilan I. area, small shipping harassed by heavy bombers, one of which also strafes Tacloban airfield. PBVs on patrol continue to harass shipping.

12 Bismarcks-Solomons: In Bismarck Archipelago, 40 F4Us, 4 B-25s, 3 TBFs, and 30 SBDs demolish buildings, hit gun position, and cause large explosions with 23 tons; huts and troop concentrations in Bougainville area attacked by 27 SBDs and 56 New Zealand and Marine F4Us.

New Guinea: Hut concentrations near Boiken attacked by 6 Beauforts, while 10 B-24s release 40 tons on Wewak runways. Sarmi defense positions fired in attack by 39 A-20s with 15 tons. In RAAF P-40 sweep from Geelvink Bay through Mac Cluer Gulf to Uтарom, 34 drop 6 tons on fuel dumps, stores, buildings, gun positions, MT, and runways, causing considerable damage; Uтарom guns, dumps, and radar screen damaged in attack by 8 other P-40s; Manokwari and Babo are targets for 25 P-47s; airstrips, dumps, radar station, and buildings hit; 1 plane missing.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

305

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

N.E.I.: Celebes-Halmahera Area: Sidate, Mapanget, and Langoan airfields bombed and strafed by 11 P-38s with 9 tons; bomber fired at Langoan; Ambesia runways and dispersal areas attacked by 16 RAAF and U.S. B-24s with 21 tons of bombs. Twenty P-38s silence guns and fire storage areas in Wasile Bay and damage jetty at Lolobata; more than 12 tons dropped.

Banda Sea Area: Two Beaufighters, 3 B-25s, and 23 RAAF P-40s destroy or damage enemy shipping and shore installations. In attacks on Ambon buildings, Boela tanks, and airfield installations at Liang, Kairatoe, Laha, and Haroekoe, 56 A-20s, 16 B-25s, 63 P-47s, and 10 P-38s strike with estimated 100 tons of bombs; moderate-intense AA holes 4 planes. Namlea runways damaged and fired and large explosions caused in 25-ton attack by 36 B-25s and 22 P-38s. B-24s harass Timor and Selaroe I. targets, while B-25s (RAAF) attack Selaroe, Dobo, and Doka Barat.

Philippine Is.: Warehouses on Sasa airfield destroyed in pre-dawn attack by 4 B-24s with 6½ tons; PB4Y destroys lugger and fuel-laden AK off Basilian I.

13 Bismarcks-Solomons: New Ireland targets of opportunity attacked by 42 F4Us and 18 SBDs; unreported number of F4Us harass New Britain; Numa Numa bivouacs and other Bougainville targets hit by 27 SBDs, 2 TBFs, and 14 F4Us.

New Guinea: In bombing and strafing strike, 9 Beauforts attack villages and targets of opportunity in Dagua-Maprik area; 11 B-24s loose 44 tons at Boiken. In fighter sweeps, 26 RAAF P-40s attack airstrips, bivouacs, fuel drums, rafts, and buildings along W Geelvink Bay, Mac Cluer Gulf, and at Utarom; AA at Babo damages 1 plane; Jef Doif I. also fired in attack; 6 tons of bombs released.

N.E.I.: Borneo: Large fires and explosions result from pre-dawn attack on Manggar revetments by 2 B-24s.

Celebes-Halmahera Area: On Morotai, enemy force of approximately 200 contacted; 116 killed, 13 taken prisoner; enemy supply and ammunition dumps destroyed.

Fires started and 3 floatplanes destroyed by PB4Y at Lalos, seaplane base in Toli Toli Bay. Buildings in Manado bivouac area destroyed in attack by 24 B-25s losing 100-lb. fragmentation clusters. Katana R. bivouac areas raided by 7 P-38s with 7 tons; 20 P-38s hit troop concentrations near Soesoepoe, AA position on Oerbae, and supplies in Wasile Bay area; Djailolo is target for 10 P-38s and 2 B-25s with

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~Oct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

9 tons; 4 P-38s and 2 RAAF A-20s hit Malifoet village and pier and jetties in Kaoe Bay.

Banda Sea Area: Boela oil installations, Amahai airfield and town, Kairatoe and Haroekoe targets, and Ambon warehouses bombed by 5 Beaufighters, 35 RAAF A-20s, 12 B-25s, 78 P-47s, and 11 P-38s; over 60 tons dropped. Small shipping off Ceram damaged by 22 RAAF P-40s which also destroy water units, oil storage tanks, huts, and buildings; 1 plane destroyed by AA at Waroe. Namlea airstrips cratered by 500-lb. bombs loosed by 18 B-25s; 8 P-38s escort. At Lautem, 2 camouflaged bombers, MT, and guns strafed by 2 Beaufighters; intense AA damages plane; B-24s again harass C. Hero and Fuilloro. Two Dutch B-25s and B-24 hit Saumlakki and Larat. Two of 4 RAAF P-40s damaged by AA over Letfoer in abortive mission.

Philippine Is.: Three tons dropped on Matina airfield near Davao; in Luzon Strait, carrier-based planes destroy 80-ft. patrol boat N of Sabtang I. and 5 grounded enemy planes at Basco field (Batan I.).

14 Bismarcks-Solomons: Twenty-six F4Us destroy waterfront installations and strafe personnel in Gazelle Peninsula; New Ireland targets including Kavieng hit by 12 SBDs and more than 16 F4Us; Bougainville supplies and bivouacs attacked by 29 New Zealand and Marine F4Us.

New Guinea: Twelve RAAF P-40s attack Idore village and garden area with 3 tons; 28 Japanese on rafts in Jakati and Waninimbar rivers strafed and killed. Manokwari buildings, bivouacs, and radar station hit, Otawiri airstrip and Sagan hq area bombed, and Sagan and Moemi fuel dumps fired in attack by 28 RAAF P-40s; moderate-intense AA encountered; P-40 missing.

N.E.I.: Borneo: Balikpapan oil installations again raided by approximately 100 B-24s escorted by 48 fighters; 125 tons released; tremendous fires result and many buildings and installations in refinery area destroyed; pipeline probably destroyed; 49 enemy fighters shot down and 18 probably destroyed for loss of 1 Allied bomber and 5 fighters; 26 Allied bombers damaged; intense AA encountered. At night Balikpapan receives 5 tons from 5 B-24s; another drops 1 1/4 tons on Balikpapan and strafes beached craft in Makassar Strait.

Celebes-Halmahera Area: Buildings in Manado bivouacs area destroyed by 5 B-24s unable to reach Balikpapan; single PB4Y damages flying boat and 3 floatplanes in Lalos seaplane

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

307

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

base attack. Fifteen P-38s strike small shipping and buildings at Amoerang and in Lembeh Strait area; 15 tons dropped. Twenty tons released on Pomelaa (SE Celebes) nickel-mining areas by 18 B-24s; fires result. Fires also started on Halmahera sweep; huts, roads, and supplies bombed with 12 tons and strafed by 16 P-38s.

Banda Sea Area: Twenty-four RAAF P-40s in flights of 3 and 4 damage buildings and small shipping in area. Waihai bombed and strafed by 2 RAAF A-20s; flying 38 sorties over Laha and 54 over Haroekoe, 45 RAAF A-20s, more than 15 B-25s, and 31 P-47s inflict severe damage on both airstrips; over 65 tons of bombs dropped. Twelve P-47s and 10 P-38s raid old Namlea and Laha airdromes and hit Ambon town. Single B-24s attack Lautem and Dili, setting bombs at latter place 400 yds. SW of Governor's residence. Two Dutch B-25s and RAAF B-24 harass minor shipping and straddle jetty at Saumlakki.

Philippine Is.: In Sulu Archipelago, small AK destroyed and lugger and barge damaged by PB4Y; at night Zamboanga and Matina hit by 2 B-24s. At Aparri, U.S. carrier planes destroy 5 grounded enemy planes and strafe near-by ground installations. PB4Y harasses shipping W of Basilian I.

15

Bismarcks-Solomons: Total of 9 B-25s, 59 SBDs, and 87 Marine and New Zealand F4Us attacks Rabaul area, dropping 59 tons of bombs on Matupi bridge, stores at Ralum, and Karakal supplies with good results. Kavieng, Fangalawa, and targets of opportunity in N New Ireland take 40 tons of bombs from 11 B-25s, 18 SBDs, and 43 F4Us. Enemy huts in S Bougainville raided by 10 Marine and 8 New Zealand F4Us.

New Guinea: Six Beauforts drop 5 tons of bombs on enemy-held villages near Wewak. In DNG area, installations, storage dumps, and bridges in Manokwari and Babo areas are bombed and strafed by 23 RAAF P-40s; Sagan airfield hit by 13 P-47s.

N.E.I.: Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: In sweep over Halmaheras, 19 P-38s damage bridge and radio station near Kaeo and start fires in Pitoe village. Warehouses along shore of Tolok Bay (N Celebes) fired and 2 sailboats in Lembeh Strait sunk by 4 P-38s. During night, Balikpapan dispersal areas bombed by B-24; PB4Y attacks Lalos seaplane base near Toli Toli and starts fires at Sandakan (N Borneo) while PB4Y destroys 2 floatplanes near port.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

Banda Sea Area: In Ceram-Ambon area, runways, barracks, and fuel storage tanks effectively bombed by 22 U.S. and RAAF A-20s, 8 P-38s, and 1 B-25; Kairatoe airfield attacked by 6 A-20s and 15 P-47s while 16 P-38s plaster Amahai runway; 11 P-38s start fires in Piroe Bay villages while 6 A-20s concentrate on radio station at Wahai; shipping searches conducted by 7 RAAF P-40s and 24 P-38s. Supply dumps in Aroe and Kei islands and small craft in area are targets for 4 Dutch B-25s. Fuiloro revetment area, Timor I., and Larat village in Tanimbar Is. each bombed by single B-24.

Philippine Is.: U.S. carrier-based planes (TG 38.4) attack Nichols, Nielson, and Mariveles airfields in Manila area (Luzon I.); 39 of 77 enemy planes destroyed during day are shot down near U.S. TF by screening fighters and ship's AA fire; 2 U.S. planes lost; minor damage is caused to the Franklin (CV) by enemy bomb hit.

Dispersal areas at Sasa airfield near Davao (Mindanao I.) raided during night by B-24 which causes fires and an explosion; 3 barges off Jolo I. (Sulu Archipelago) hit by another B-24.

- 16 **Bismarcks-Solomons:** Matupi village and MT in Rabaul area strafed by 8 F4Us. Targets of opportunity in New Ireland attacked by 6 B-25s, 28 SBDs, and 14 F4Us. Personnel areas on Bougainville I. are objectives of 24 SBDs and 20 F4Us.

New Guinea: In Wewak area, villages are bombed by 6 Beauforts while 6 A-20s attack Boram airfield. Radio station, MG positions, and bridges in Manokwari area and supplies near Moemi are targets for 16 RAAF P-40s; 8 additional P-40s hit enemy hq buildings at Sagan; Sagan and Mongosah airfields cratered by 11 U.S. and RAAF A-20s, 16 P-47s, and 1 B-25; Timika airfield glide-bombed by 13 P-47s.

N.E.I.: Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Twenty-two B-24s attack targets in Makassar area; 80% of bombload falls in target area causing fires and explosions among warehouses and Standard and Shell oil installations; moderate AA fire and 6 unaggressive enemy fighters met. Twenty P-38s bomb Wasile and Kaeo Bay shore positions, Halmahera I., hitting fuel supplies and MT, and sinking 1 sea-truck and several barges in area. Along N shore of Borneo, sea-trucks destroyed and several luggers damaged by PBV during night; single B-24 bombs Pandansari oil refinery at Balikpapan before dawn; large barge N of Toli Toli Bay destroyed by another B-24.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

Banda Sea Area: Thirty-four B-24s attack Namlea airfield, Boeroe I., with good results; 24 B-25s, covering mission, cause fires and explosions at Ambon town; 2 sea-trucks and 2 luggers fired in Binnen Bay by 10 P-38s; 28 additional P-38s hit Amahai and Piroe villages and strafe inter-island shipping; small craft off NW coast of Ambon I. raided by 4 Beaufighters. Haroekoe runways take 16.75 tons of bombs from 47 P-47s while 36 more P-47s split up to bomb Boela and Amahai airfields; excellent coverage of all targets reported. Langgoer and Faan airdromes in Kei Is. effectively bombed and strafed by 23 U.S. and RAAF A-20s and 1 B-25. Single RAAF B-24 hits W Lautem buildings, Timor I.

Philippine Is.: Airfields in Davao area harassed before dawn by 3 B-24s. Fifteen P-38s strike shipping in Cagayan harbor (NW Mindanao), setting on fire 1 AK, 1 sea-truck, and several luggers; same planes also damage near-by airfield installations and wreck 1 grounded bomber; 40-50 MT, 6 staff cars, and 12 fuel trucks destroyed and many casualties caused among Japanese Cav troops along highway to Valencia.

17 Philippine Is.: Suluan-Dinagat-Homonhon Is.: Allied naval units, 5 APDs and HMAS Ariadne, enter Leyte Gulf at dawn; storm of typhoon intensity holds up channel sweeping operations and prevents landings on Suluan, Dinagat, and Homonhon islands at scheduled time; landings effected under control of Commanding General, 6th Army, to clear entrance to Leyte Gulf. Following naval bombardment, Co D of 6th Ranger Inf Bn makes unopposed landing at 0820 hours on W coast of Suluan I. In advance overland to lighthouse at S tip of island, enemy documents are seized and radar installations destroyed; Co D suffers 2 casualties. At 0900 hours naval fire is directed at NW coast of Dinagat I.; by 1230 troops of 6th Ranger Inf Bn (less Cos B and D) and Co B of 21st Inf are ashore on Black Beach #1 just below Kanamong Pt; navigation light is set up at Desolation Pt. at N tip of island; evidence of Japanese garrison found, but no contacts made.

Carrier aircraft (TG 38.4) are active over Manila area; 113 sorties made; no enemy airborne over Legaspi airfield; 1 hangar at Clark field, 20 enemy planes in air, and 9 on ground destroyed for loss of 3 U.S. planes.

Force of 59 B-24s releases 106 tons of bombs on port facilities and bivouacs in Ilang area, N of Davao.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

causing large fires and explosions and wrecking many buildings. Fifteen P-38s destroy sea-truck and damage another off Zamboanga.

N.E.I.: Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Twelve P-38s drop 6 tons of bombs on Hatetabako airfield, Halmahera I.; small landing craft off Batjan I. strafed by 2 B-25s. Beached sea-truck at C. Kandi, NE Celebes, bombed by B-24. In predawn raid single B-24 starts fires at Pandansari oil refinery at Balikpapan.

Banda Sea Area: Twelve A-20s score direct hits on installations and barracks at Boela and Laha; fuel dumps fired near Ambon town and 1 small vessel sunk in Binnen Bay by 16 P-47s. Twenty-three B-25s with 11 tons of bombs cause fires in Namlea town, Boeroe I. Single B-24 bombs Lingat village, Tanimbar I.; huts on Trangan I. fired by 2 RAAF B-25s.

New Guinea: Boram airfield is target for 5 Beauforts; enemy camps in Wewak area and on Mushu and Kairiru islands hit by 6 A-20s, 6 B-25s, and 3 P-47s. Vogelkop area covered by 16 RAAF P-40s which bomb Idore bivouac areas and fuel dumps and MG positions along shores of Geelvink Bay; 1 P-40 missing; Sagan airfield cratered by 12 A-20s and 1 B-25.

Bismarcks-Solomons: Communication facilities and bivouac areas on Gazelle Peninsula attacked by 87 F4Us and 44 SBDs. Eight B-25s, 65 SBDs, and 22 F4Us bomb and strafe villages and plantations in New Ireland. Bougainville personnel areas raided by 12 F4Us.

18

Philippine Is.: Suluan-Dinagat-Homonhon Is.: After lying off coast for 24 hours waiting for storm to lift and approach channel to be cleared, Co B of 6th Ranger Inf Bn lands on Black Beach #2, just N of Pagbabacan Pt., on S coast of Homonhon I.; other units of landing force include 21st Ground Observer Plat, an amphibious scout party, and an Army-Navy support officer. At 1038 beachhead is secured; no resistance met; channel light is set up at Pagbabacan Pt. Meanwhile, Co D, having completed its mission on Suluan I., returns to Bn perimeter on Dinagat I. During night small enemy group attempting to infiltrate defense plat perimeter at Desolation Pt. is driven off; 1 enemy killed.

U.S. 7th Fleet bombardment forces enter Leyte Gulf and commence firing on installations on E coast of Leyte I.; AMs and underwater demolition teams operate in area, removing mines and investigating landing beaches; naval planes attack airfields, defense installations, supplies, and shipping in

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

18 Leyte-Cebu areas; claims include 14 grounded planes destroyed
Cont and 2 shot down; 1 medium AO and 3 PTs sunk; 10 AKs, 1 AO, 1 ammunition ship, and numerous small craft damaged. Light enemy air raid is made on AMs and hydrographic craft off Leyte; no damage reported. Carrier aircraft (3d Fleet) again strike Luzon targets: TGs 38.4 and 38.1 attack airfields near Manila and shipping in harbor; supplies at Aparri and shipping off N coast hit by TG 38.2; 500 sorties flown and 135 tons of bombs dropped; 67 of 118 planes encountered are destroyed and 64 more wrecked on ground for loss of 22 U.S. planes; 2 APs and an AO sunk off Camiguin I.; 2 more APs and an AO fired.

Eleven P-47s strafe MT in Valencia-Agusan area, Mindanao I.; 93,000 rounds of MG expended with good results. Four P-47s fire 2 luggers off Malabang I.

N.E.I.: Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Despite adverse weather, 34 B-24s attack Manado area, N Celebes, achieving good pattern with 54 tons of bombs; Gorontalo buildings fired before dawn by single B-24. Cloud-covered Balikpapan bombed by 8 B-24s. Halmahera attacks continued by 5 P-40s, 7 P-38s, and 2 Beaufighters which hit enemy camps near Djailolo and supplies along Wasile Bay.

Banda Sea Area: Airfield and fuel facilities at Boela, Namlea and Liang airfields, and Ambon town attacked by 24 B-25s, 1 B-24, and 16 P-47s; oil tanks exploded, runways cratered, and huge fires started in town and revetment areas; storage tanks at Boela also hit by 8 RAAF P-40s and 2 Beaufighters; 4 additional RAAF P-40s bomb radar station at Simora in the Kei Is.; 1 P-40 lost. Single B-24 hits jetty and silences MG position at Larat village, Tanimbar Is.

New Guinea: Enemy camps near Wewak are targets for 6 Beauforts; Boiken village hit by 5 A-20s and 4 P-47s. Five B-25s, 34 A-20s, and 48 P-47s loose 45.5 tons of bombs on Sagan, Otawiri, and Babo runways and dispersal areas; Timika airfield takes 8 tons from 16 P-47s. Twelve RAAF P-40s also cover Vogelkop area; garden areas near Idore village, installations at Moemi and on Mansiman I.; and radar station near Kaimana are chief targets hit; 1 P-40 lost.

Bismarcks-Solomons: Rabaul targets harassed before dawn by 3 B-25s; barge traffic off Raluana Pt. and buildings on Gazelle Peninsula attacked by 69 F4Us and 20 SBDs with good results. Targets of opportunity in New Ireland hit by 14 F4Us and 4 B-25s. Huts on Bougainville fired and several casualties caused by 12 New Zealand F4Us and 12 SBDs.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

19

Philippine Is.: Homonhon-Dinagat Is.: Patrols of 6th Ranger Inf Bn report entire S coast of Homonhon I. clear of enemy. On Dinagat I., Cos A and D move by sea to Loreto, 6 mi. S of Kanamong Pt.; only friendly natives found here. Enemy planes are over island but no attacks are made.

In preparation for invasion of Leyte I., carrier aircraft (7th Fleet) attack roads leading to beach areas, defense installations, ammunition dumps, airfields, and shipping in area, destroying more than 50 MT. many buildings, a large number of camouflaged tanks behind beaches, and 38 grounded planes; 1 AK/AP and 3 small vessels sunk. During night, TFs 78 and 79 enter Leyte Gulf; USS Ross (DD) strikes 2 mines and returns under tow to Hollandia. Clark and Nielson airfields and shipping in Manila area are targets for 340 carrier-based planes (3d Fleet); 25 airborne planes engaged and 8 shot down; 8 U.S. planes lost. Intensive mine-sweeping operations conducted in Leyte Gulf; 224 mines disclosed.

Cebu I. airfields strafed by 13 P-47s which damage grounded planes and fire small craft off Mactan I.; 1 P-47 lost to AA fire. Enemy floatplane in Samar Sea near Descatado I. sunk by B-24. Twelve B-25s drop 10 tons of bombs on Malabang airfield (W Mindanao I.); explosion caused. Sixteen P-38s operating against shipping between Jolo I. and Zamboanga damage an AP and sink 4 luggers and several barges. PBV at night fires warehouse at Puerta Princesa, Palawan I.

N.E.I.: Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Eighteen Darwin-based B-24s rain 22½ tons of demolitions and incendiaries on waterfront facilities at Pare Pare, SW Celebes, causing fires; shipping in Makassar Strait harassed by PBV and B-24 during night. Eight Morotai-based P-40s and 4 P-38s attack Halmahera targets, hitting Djailolo town, Hatetabako, and Miti personnel areas.

Banda Sea Area: Thirty-six U.S. and RAAF A-20s and 1 B-25 unload 40 tons of bombs on Boela oil facilities, causing further damage to derricks and buildings; installations at Ambon town take 54 tons of bombs from 17 B-25s, 31 P-47s, and 1 B-24; AA fire holes 2 B-24s. Six RAAF A-20s and 2 Dutch B-25s attack Letfoear airfield and other targets in the Kei Is. C. Chater airfield, Timor I., cratered by single B-24 while 2 more B-24s harass Fuiloró and Dili town. Twenty RAAF P-40s strafe N Ceram coastal targets and make shipping searches.

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

New Guinea: Nine B-24s unload 36 tons of bombs on Wewak airfield; Boiken plantation and camps in Danmap R. area attacked by 6 Beauforts, 6 A-20s, and 5 B-25s. Targets of opportunity in DNG area bombed and strafed by 36 RAAF P-40s; river craft and observation post in Manokwari area destroyed, Babo airfield cratered, and many fuel dumps fired; Sagan airfield hit with 10.75 tons of bombs by 30 P-47s while 1 B-25 bombs installations on Doom I. near Sorong; 18 A-20s loose 16 tons of bombs on Utarom runway with good pattern.

Bismarcks-Solomons: Total of 26 B-25s, 43 SBDs, and 84 Marine and New Zealand F4Us attacks Gazelle Peninsula targets, concentrating on personnel areas along Wide and Open bays and buildings and MT in vicinity of Rabaul. Scattered targets in New Ireland hit by 14 Marine F4Us and 2 Venturas; 1 F4U lost and 2 more holed by AA fire. Six F4Us raid huts on Bougainville I.

20 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

U.S. Sixth Army forces, under Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger with Gen. Douglas MacArthur in personal command, invade Philippine Is., landing on E coast of Leyte I. between San Jose (San Ricardo) and Dulag at approximately 1000; another landing is made on N and S coasts of Panoan Strait to southward at 0900. Prior to landings, U.S. BBs deliver 2-hour bombardment of beach areas; CLs and DDs center fire on strong-points, and LCIs open up with heavy rocket and mortar barrage; fire support is shifted to flanks and rear areas as assault troops move toward beaches.

Naval operations are directed by Commander of U.S. 7th Fleet Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, whose immediate superior is Gen. MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief, SWPA; 3 major task forces of 7th Fleet participating are TF 77 (covering and support) under Vice Admiral Kinkaid, TF 78 (northern attack force) under Rear Admiral D.E. Barbey, and TF 79 (southern attack force) under Vice Admiral T.S. Wilkinson; an Australian Squadron under Commodore John A. Collins is also employed. Covering landing operations are the fast battleships and carriers of U.S. 3d Fleet, commanded by Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., whose immediate superior is Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and POA. Total of 738 vessels, 157 of which are combat ships, engaged.

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIEDOct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER20
Cont

X Corps (White and Red Beaches) X Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Franklin C. Sibert, lands on beaches between Palo and San Jose (San Ricardo), about 3 mi. S of Tacloban.

First Cav Div with 2d Brig on N and 1st Brig on S lands on White Beach in vicinity of San Jose at 1000 hours; terrific barrage by LCI rocket ships and gunboats covers beach defenses and for a distance of 800 yds. inland prior landing; LCVPs carrying initial assault elements of 7th, 12th, and 5th Cav Regts encounter only SA and MG fire. First Sq of 7th Cav, supported by medium tanks of 44th Tk Bn, advances N up Cataisan Peninsula against negligible resistance, securing Tacloban airdrome by 1545; meanwhile, 2d Sq of 7th Cav and 1st Brig (12th and 5th Cav) push inland across swampy terrain, crossing highway #2 and contacting R flank of 24th Inf Div at 1530 hours; 8th Cav in Corps Reserve assembles near San Jose. During night enemy makes slight infiltration in 5th Cav sector on Div L flank. Maj. Gen. Verne D. Mudge assumes command of Div ashore at 1430; Div CP is established at San Jose.

Twenty-fourth Inf Div (less 21st RCT) with 34th Regt on N and 19th Regt on S lands on Red Beach, N. of Palo; leading assault waves hit beach at 1000 hours, receiving first hostile fire after landing; commencing with 6th wave, enemy mortar and 75-mm arty opens up on landing craft, setting 1 LST on fire and damaging 4; several craft carrying 1st Bn, 19th Inf, hit and 4 sunk; casualties caused; 2 LSTs carrying most of arty and tanks driven away. Assault Cos of 34th Inf ("I" on R and "K" on L) land about 300 yds. N of planned positions; "I" Co pushes W against slight opposition while "K" Co encounters 5 enemy pillboxes along stream about 75 yds. from beach which are wiped out by hand grenades and rifle fire; Co "L" moves to position just S of Co "K"; by 1215 beach area of 34th Inf is cleared; 33 enemy dead counted. After barrage by 81-mm mortars, tanks, and MGs is laid down on enemy positions, 3d Bn of 34th Inf continues push through open swamp to tree-line 150 yds. farther inland; area 250 yds. beyond tree-line secured by

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

20
Cont

1430; then 2d Bn passes through 3d Bn to consolidate position but withdraws to establish night perimeter along the Palo-Tacloban road (Highway #1) at Pawing, approximately 2 mi. N of Palo; contact maintained with 1st Cav Div troops on N and 19th Inf on S. Assault waves of 3d Bn, 19th Inf, land about 800 yds. N of planned position; contact of R flank with 34th Inf is made about 500 yds. inland; L flank is initially held up about 50 yds. off beach by enemy tank ditches, mortars, and 75-mm guns; "I" Co knocks out several pillboxes and a 75-mm gun to establish beachhead 400 yds. inland by 1430; 1st Bn lands under fire about 300 yds. N of designated area, and advances 200 yds. inland, wiping out strong enemy pillbox and overcoming intense rifle fire to reach assembly area; 2d Bn, landing at designated position, forms defensive perimeter around beachhead; enemy 75-mm gun, firing on LSTs is knocked out by bazooka fire at 1245; 2 more abandoned 75-mm guns found; after repulsing an attack of estimated 1 plat of enemy troops attempting to retake gun positions, 2d Bn attacks S and W toward Palo, encountering strong enemy position of mutually supporting pillboxes about 500 yds. inland, where beach road bends directly W toward Palo-Tacloban highway. Meanwhile 1st Bn scouts locate an alternate approach to Hill 522, dominating terrain feature across the Palo R., N of Palo; at 1430, 1st Bn moves out on covered route; "E" Co is almost immediately pinned down by intense fire from 5 enemy pillboxes; remainder of Bn advances around N flank to attack Hill 522 from NE; "B" Co makes way up steep and winding trail to first crest of hill where advance is halted by fire from well prepared enemy positions; "C" Co reaches central and highest crest of hill by dusk, just ahead of Japanese working up W slope; 50 enemy killed. Enemy attempts to infiltrate 1st Bn's positions during night; 1 "banzai" attack repulsed by automatic weapons' fire. Enemy after vacating hill positions during naval, arty, and air attacks, fails by matter of minutes to reoccupy positions (fortifications consisted of well constructed, camouflaged pillboxes with communication trenches and tunnels honeycombing entire hill) before 1st

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
194420
ContSection VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

Bn assault; occupation of hill costs 1st Bn only 14 killed and 95 wounded. Advance of 24th Inf Div is supported by 3d Eng which breaches side of enemy tank trap at 2 points with bulldozers and builds dirt ramps for movement of vehicles; work immediately commenced on roads from beach to dump area and along beach road to Palo. Supporting fires from "B" Btry of 13th and "A" Btry of 63d FA Bns registered on Hill 522 during day; enemy positions reaching S of Palo to San Joaquin fired during night.

At 0900, 21st RCT of 24th Inf Div makes unopposed landings at S tip of Leyte I. and on N tip of Panoan I. to gain control of Panoan Strait and thus, to permit passage of PTs into the Mindanao Sea; no enemy installations or activity disclosed.

XXIV Corps (Blue, Orange, Violet, and Yellow Beaches) XXIV Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge, lands on beaches between the Libaranan and Daguitan rivers; majority of enemy gun positions are destroyed or neutralized by naval gunfire; casualties are light.

Ninety-sixth Inf Div (less 381st Regt) lands on beaches (Blue and Orange) between the Libaranan and Calbasag rivers in vicinity of San Jose; initial landings made by 4 assault bns. First amphibious tank wave of 763d Tk Bn lands at 0958, followed closely by 2d and 3d Bns of 382d Regt; 3d Bn on L (South) flank of Div encounters enemy fire at base of Hill 120; naval gunfire and mortars neutralize enemy position, enabling troops to seize hill; at 1100, 1st Bn lands and moves just E of Hill 120; Blue beaches reported secure 800 yds. inland at 1145. At 0959, first amphibious tank wave hits Orange beaches; 1st and 2d Bns of 383d Regt are ashore by 1020; Orange beaches declared secure at 1050; 3d Bn lands at 1100 hours, occupies San Jose, and secures R (North) flank of Div beachhead; by 1130 assault bns are 1,200 yds. inland; still no enemy met but some mortar fire from Catmon Hill mass encountered; tanks bog down in swamps just inland from beaches. At 1630, 1st and 2d Bns of 383d Regt and 2d Bn of 382d Regt establish front line positions approximately 3,000 yds. inland while 3d Bn of 382d Regt, in keeping lateral contact with 32d Inf of 7th Div and held up by enemy counterattack about 200 yds. W of Hill 120, consolidates positions 1,100 yds. from beachhead; 1st Bn of 383d Regt, which moved 2,000 yds. inland and turned N

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

20
Cont

to cross Liberanan R., is in position at foot of Catmon Hill to attack Liberanan Head from W. Seventh Inf Div, 184th Inf on L and 32d Inf on R, lands on beaches (Yellow and Violet) between the Calbasag and Daguitan rivers in Dulag area; only slight opposition encountered. First tank wave of 776th Tk Bn hits beach at 1003; landings are made on Yellow beaches by 1st and 3d Bns of 184th Regt and on Violet beaches by 3d and 2d Bns of 32d Regt; 1 plat of 91st Cml Wpn Co is landed to support each regt. Third Bn of 184th Inf advances through town of Dulag against sporadic rifle fire to reach Dulag-Burauen road (highway #1) by 1320; 1st Bn arrives on same highway at 1300; 2d and 3d Bns of 34th Inf overcome enemy SA, AT, and MG fire in push of 500 yds. inland by 1400. At approximately 1300, 2d Bn of 184th Regt is landed and moves to position on Div L flank; 3d Bn of 17th Regt lands at 1500 and drives W and S of Dulag to seize Dao bridge over the Daguitan R.; bridge-head S of river secured by 2100. By 1700, when perimeter defenses for night are established, all elements of 32d and 184th Regts are ashore and beachheads secured; 2d Bn of 32d Regt is in contact with 96th Inf Div and 1st Bn of 184th Regt has advanced to point 300 yds. W of Dulag airfield. Div arty CP is established ashore at 2020. During night enemy counterattack spearheaded by 5 tanks is repulsed by arty, AT, and SA fire; after fighting stubborn delaying action, 3d Bn of Japanese 33d Inf Regt, on L flank facing the sea, withdraws inland.

Carrier aircraft of 3d and 7th Fleets operate over Leyte, Cebu, Panay, and Negros islands: on Leyte I., revetments at San Pablo and Dulag airfields and Dagami town are attacked by 147 planes which drop 40 tons of bombs and fire 130 rockets with good results; gun positions, fuel dumps, bridges, and MT also heavily hit; waterfront facilities, barracks, and small craft in Cebu and Panay areas fired; 6 enemy planes shot down and 2 grounded planes destroyed; 1 U.S. plane lost to AA fire; 1 enemy bomber shot down near U.S. surface units. USS Honolulu (CL) torpedoed, but returns to base under own power; HMAS Australia (CA) is struck on bridge by enemy dive-bomber.

On Mindanao I., enemy hq area at Davao attacked by 43 B-24s which cause fire and explosion with 95 tons of

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

20 bombs; Bacolod airfield and Cotabato-Makar road strafed by
Cont 14 P-47s with good results; 2 coastal vessels in Sarangani Strait destroyed by single B-24. Fuel dumps on Negros I. fired by 11 B-25s with 11 tons of bombs. Two B-24s shoot down 7 floatplanes off Mindoro I. Explosions caused in docks and barracks areas at Sangi I. (S of Tawi Tawi) by patrol planes.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: In sweep over N Halmahera, 4 P-38s and 12 P-40s fire bivouacs, buildings, and stores along shores of Wasile and Kaeo bays; gun positions and jetty at Galela Bay shelled by U.S. PTs and 2 P-40s. During night, fires are started in Balikpapan oil storage areas by single B-24 while a second B-24 scores hits on enemy AK off Tarakan; enemy floatplane unsuccessfully attacked by another B-24.

Banda Sea Area: Thirty A-20s and 23 B-25s attack Ambon-Ceram area, causing damage and destruction to oil facilities at Boela and to Wahai barracks; Ambon town fired with 22.5 tons of bombs; 1 B-25 over Ambon town destroyed and 4 holed by AA fire. Fuel stores at Boela also hit by 2 B-25s, 31 P-38s, and 1 B-24 which attack Namlea airfield and radio station at C. Noesanive; Amahai and Kairatoe airfields take 10½ tons of bombs from 42 P-47s. Communications on Timor I. strafed by 6 Beauforts.

New Guinea Brandi Plantation and defense positions along Danmap R. in Wewak area bombed and strafed by 5 Beauforts and 5 A-20s. In Vogelkop circle, bivouacs, stores, and 2 possible radar stations hit, bridge at Moemi damaged, 1 power boat and a pier at Fak Fak destroyed by 36 RAAF P-40s. Twelve A-20s loose 12 tons of bombs on Moemi and Waren airfields, causing fires, while 2 B-25s, 24 A-20s, and 32 P-47s crater Babo and Mongosah runways and installations with more than 24 tons; Doom I. raided by 2 B-25s.

Bismarcks-Solomons Targets of opportunity in New Ireland hit by 14 F4Us and 2 Venturas; Panapai airfield bombed during night by 2 B-25s and 28 F4Us. Enemy concentrations, MT, and gun positions on Bougainville I. attacked by 20 Marine and New Zealand F4Us, 24 SEDs, 1 TBF, and 3 TDRs (radio-controlled bombs) with good results.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIEDOct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER21 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps First Sq of 7th Regt (1st Cav Div) moves by LVTs across Cancabato Bay to join 2d Sq in attack on Tacloban, capital of Leyte. First Brig pushes W into hills separating Tacloban and Leyte Valleys while 7th Cav turns NW into Tacloban Valley; enemy position on ridge (Hill 215) to SW of Tacloban halts 2d Sq of 7th Cav; meanwhile 1st Sq enters Tacloban; most of city proper is cleared in house-to-house fighting; final resistance eliminated with support of tanks, mortars, and arty; by nightfall entire city and peninsula to N and W is secured.

Twenty-fourth Inf Div wipes out enemy resistance along Pawing-Palo highway and captures Palo; remainder of Hill 522 secured. At dawn an 81-mm and 4.2 mortar barrage is laid down on enemy positions in Pawing perimeter; Japanese attempting to cross from E to W side of highway #1 to escape arty fire are mowed down by MG fire; enemy arty falling on L flank of "F" Co is soon silenced; 2d Bn, 34th Inf, then attacks, causing enemy to withdraw S along highway #1 under heavy MG, mortar, and arty fire; at 0835 retreating Japanese are heavily hit with rocket bombs by 1 sq of Navy fighters; 600 enemy dead counted along highway; 14 men killed and 12 wounded in "G" Co, which bore brunt of attack. Following reduction of enemy positions by arty fire on S and N crests of Hill 522, Cos "B" and "C" of 1st Bn, 19th Inf, launch coordinated attack down far slope of hill, wiping out all organized enemy resistance; 8 heavy MGs and 4 mortars captured; approximately 50 enemy killed. At 1400 hours, 2d Bn, 34th Inf, attacks ridges about 2,000 yds. W of Pawing; "E" Co occupies N knoll of hill mass (Hill 331) at 1425; forward elements of "F" Co reach top of S knoll where they are pinned down by enemy MG and rifle fire; estimated 200 Japanese work way N along reverse slope to crest of hill and roll hand grenades down upon attacking force; under cover of 60-mm mortar fire, "F" Co withdraws to positions 500 yds. W of Pawing. Following an all-

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

21
Cont

night mortar barrage and naval gunfire strike against enemy pillboxes blocking beach road W of highway #1, 3d Bn of 19th Inf attacks S, capturing a 75-mm gun, AT gun, and 1 heavy MG and reaching point within 200 yds. of road bend, where enemy strongpoint forces "I" Co to dig in while remainder of Bn withdraws; meanwhile 2d Bn, 19th Inf, moving W to by-pass road block, disperses 35 enemy troops moving S (apparently remnants of enemy bn which earlier attacked 2d Bn of 34th Inf at Pawing) and reaches juncture of Palo beach road with highway #1 at 1155 hours; column then moves along highway, encountering enemy arty between road junction and Palo R. bridge which speeds up march into Palo at 1500; fierce opposition encountered in W part of town causes Bn to establish perimeter around town square; enemy snipers are active throughout night; 13th FA establishes post in municipal building, firing on all roads leading into Palo. Enemy dead in Palo-Pawing area identified as elements of 33d Inf, 20th Inf, and 22d FA of 16th Div (veterans of Manchuria and Bataan).

XXIV Corps First Bn of 383d Regt, 96th Inf Div, attacking up W nose of Liberahan Head encounters increasingly strong enemy resistance which halts advance (enemy units in defense of Catmon Hill-Liberahan area include 1st Bn, 9th Inf Regt, and 2d Bn, 22d FA Regt); elements of Bn by-pass enemy position and push N up draw to secure high ground but withdraw to permit concentration of arty fire and air and naval gunfire strikes on Catmon Hill mass; other units of Div advancing inland across swampy terrain gain 2,000 yds. against light opposition. At 1420 hours, enemy 75-mm arty (believed located on S slopes of Catmon Hill) shells Div CP, causing several casualties. Two btrys of 504th AAA (90-mm how) Bn are landed; 1 btry is in firing position by 1630. Maj. Gen James L. Bradley assumes command of his Div ashore.

Seventh Inf Div attacks toward Buraen: 184th Inf, driving W from Dulag, seizes Dulag airfield and pushes 3,200 yds. inland against sporadic rifle and MG fire; 32d Inf on Div R flank advances 2,900 yds. over swampland, overcoming arty, SA, MG, and AT

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

21
Cont

fire; FA Bns together with units of 767th Tk Bn and 776th Amtank Bn support advance. Maj. Gen. A.V. Arnold takes command of Div ashore at 1300 hours. By nightfall, all elements of Div are landed.

Carrier planes of 7th Fleet operate over Leyte I., supporting ground operations, while 3d Fleet aircraft attack Negros, Panay, Cebu, and Masbate targets. Off Leyte I., 2 raids made on U.S. TF by enemy planes which torpedo 1 ship; several landing craft damaged by AA fire; 3 enemy bombers shot down by ship's AA fire and 4 more by U.S. fighters over CVLs.

Forty-one B-24s release 94 tons of bombs on Cagayan town and airfield, E of Iligan Bay (N Mindanao), causing large fires. Six B-25s and 14 P-38s bomb enemy barracks at Misamis; SW of Cagayan, destroying buildings; 3 floatplanes destroyed in Iligan Bay; 2 oil tanks on small island S of Mactan I. fired and 2 more floatplanes probably sunk; P-38s attack 30-truck convoy on highway near Kibawe, probably destroying 23 MT.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Twelve U.S. and 6 RAAF B-24s drop 22 tons of bombs on jetty and warehouses at Pare Pare, SW Celebes, causing fires. Single B-24 fires Balikpapan oil targets before dawn; off NE Borneo, 1 sea-truck sunk and another beached by 2 B-24s. Attacks on Halmahera continued by 14 RAAF P-40s, 4 P-38s, and U.S. PTs which hit radar station and demolish jetty near Galela and fire Kaeo Bay supply dumps; airfields at Kaeo and Galela effectively bombed by 16 B-25s and 23 P-38s.

Banda Sea Area: Boela airfield attacked by 19 P-47s; near-by fuel tanks exploded by 12 A-20s and 1 B-24; Amahai airfield hit by 12 additional A-20s. Enemy hq and barracks at Lahane village, Timor I., bombed by 9 Beauforts and 1 B-24; Lautem hit by single B-24. Two Dutch B-25s raid Larat village in Tanimbar Is.

New Guinea Six Beauforts, 6 B-24s, and 4 P-47s with more than 29.6 tons of bombs wreck many buildings SW of But; Brandi Plantation and Wewak Pt. hit by 6 bombing and strafing A-20s; runways and revetment areas at Babo and Sagan struck by 31 P-47s; good results attained.

Bismarcks-Solomons Gazelle Peninsula targets attacked by 29 SBDs and 40 Marine and New Zealand F4Us; many casualties caused and 5 barges sunk in Keraven Bay area; gun emplacements

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

and buildings destroyed at C. Tawui and elsewhere in Rabaul area. Kavieng and Hunter Pt. in New Ireland hit by 4 B-25s, 6 F4Us, and 1 Ventura. Scattered targets on Bougainville I. attacked by 15 SBDs and 22 New Zealand F4Us.

22 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Following aerial bombing and arty preparation, 2d Sq of 7th Regt, 1st Cav Div, overruns stubbornly defended ridge (Hill 215) SW of Tacloban, finding 335 enemy dead. Mopping up operations around Tacloban conducted by 2d Brig while elements of 1st Brig push W and NW of city, reaching village of Anibong; 8th Cav reverts from Corps Reserve to Div control. Div CP moves from San Jose to race track at Tacloban.

Troops of 24th Inf Div seize ridge area W of Pawing, open up beach road to Palo, and launch attack to secure hills W of Palo. Japanese resistance in 34th Inf sector is broken; "F" Co of 3d Bn, 34th Inf, moves from position W of Pawing to attack S knoll of Hill 331, stopping 300 yds. short of ridge to permit 10-min. attack by 1 sq of Navy dive bombers; heavy MGs cover crest while arty pounds ridge position in advance of inf; entire ridge seized without a single casualty; enemy retreating W shelled by arty with excellent results. Despite heavy arty barrage encircling Palo, enemy attacks in force down highway #2 (Santa Fe-Palo), striking at 0330 toward center of town; heavy fire from outposts of 2d Bn, 19th Inf; forces enemy to withdraw; enemy then turns S and attacks L flank; assault is broken up after 3½ hours of bitter fighting by "F" and "G" Cos with close support of 13th and 63d FA Bns; enemy troops (estimated 1 plat) come out of strongpoint at bend of Palo beach road; 16 killed by MGs at Palo R. bridge. Following an all-night barrage on enemy strongpoint at curve of Palo beach road laid down by 1st Plat of "C" Co of 85th Cml Bn, 3d Bn of 19th Inf, supported by 1st Bn of 34th Inf on L flank, moves through enemy positions, opening up

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

22
Cont

beach road (supply line to Palo) and breaking last organized resistance on Red Beach; in 19th Inf sector, 276 enemy counted killed; regt losses are 66 killed and 172 wounded. Patrolling of beach road and mopping up S to Palo R. is taken over by 1st Bn, 34th Inf; 3d Bn of 19th Inf relieves 2d Bn in Palo. Div CP moves to point on beach road, about 400 yds. E of juncture with highway #1; large numbers of Filipino refugees on Red Beach are marched in single file down road to Palo; only sniper fire encountered. At 1425 hours, 2d Bn of 19th Inf launches attack toward Hill "B", which with Hill "C" is last ridge area blocking entrance to Leyte Valley along highway #2; with arty support, high ground to E of Hill is quickly seized and Bn advances down road; "E" Co patrols are on E slope of Hill "B" when enemy force moving eastward and around hill launches attack; enemy rifle fire from dug-in positions and from coconut trees along road opens up, inflicting heavy casualties to "E" Co and forcing Bn to withdraw to ridge W of Hill; estimated 100 Japanese killed. First Bn of 19th Inf continues to mop up on Hill 522, forcing enemy out of tunnels with hand grenades and sealing off some trenches with boulders...

XXIV Corps First Bn, 383d Inf, overcomes hostile resistance to secure Libaran Head area by 1630; other elements of 96th Div, S of Catmon Hill, continue push inland across jungle swamps; opposition is light but progress is slow as there are no inland roads in Div zone and practically all weapons and supplies are hand-carried; native carriers, carabao, and the M29C (Weasel) are used in some areas; 3d Bn, 383d Inf, finds no enemy at Anibung. The 381st Inf (released from 6th Army Reserve to XXIV Corps) moves ashore on Beach Blue 1; bivouac for night is established 600 yds. inland. Enemy positions on Catmon Hill shelled by naval and arty fire.

Enemy strongpoints to front of 7th Div troops are reduced by air strikes and gains of approximately 2,800 yds. are made by 184th and 32d Regts approaching San Pablo airfield. Seventeenth Inf, initially in Corps Reserve, is released to 7th Div and moves

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

22
Cont

to assembly area near Dulag airfield. Nine arty liaison planes (7 flown off coastal road in San Jose area and 2 off CVEs) land on Dulag airfield.

In support of ground forces advancing on Leyte I., naval aircraft continue sweeps over the Visayas; 22 enemy planes destroyed; 6 more enemy assailants shot down during night near U.S. ships by fighters and AA fire. Forty-seven U.S. PTs, based at San Pedro Bay between Leyte and Samar islands, patrol Samar and Camotes Seas and Surigao Strait, hindering enemy reinf in Ormoc Bay area. Movement of Japanese fleet units northward from Singapore is detected at 0200 hours; USS Darter (SS) trails 3 large enemy ships NW of Borneo.

Lahug and Opon airfields (possible staging fields for Japanese planes enroute to attack U.S. positions on Leyte) on Cebu and Mactan islands, respectively, are targets for 49 B-24s and 24 P-38s which drop 61.75 tons of bombs on runways and dispersal areas through cloud cover; no interception met. Matina airfield and warehouses near Davao harassed before dawn by 2 B-24s. Cagayan town, N Mindanao, takes 27 tons of bombs from 12 B-24s; fires and explosions result. Twelve B-25s and 8 P-38s attack waterfront facilities and shipping in Zamboanga area, damaging warehouses and jetty and destroying 1 floatplane and several other small vessels; MG fire holes 4 U.S. planes. Near Palawan I., 1 enemy transport plane is shot down, 1 lugger sunk, and 2 damaged by U.S. patrol planes.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Six B-25s drop parafrags on Ternate village while 23 P-40s, 8 P-47s, and 2 B-25s sweep over Halmahera, starting fires at Djailolo, Tobelo, and along shore of Wasile Bay. Enemy AK and sea-truck off NE coast of Borneo damaged by B-24; other B-24s search for enemy shipping in Makassar Strait with negative results.

Banda Sea Area: Ceram-Ambon area attacked by 62 P-47s and 24 B-25s; P-47s strike Amahai and Kairatoe runways while B-25s hit installations and supplies along Piroe Bay; Laha and Kairatoe runways cratered by 35 A-20s with 29 tons of bombs; AA fire downs 2 A-20s. Two Dutch B-25s raid enemy villages on Babar Is.

New Guinea Pressure on enemy targets in Newak area maintained by 10 B-24s and 5 A-20s which loose more than 50 tons of bombs on airfields, villages, and camps along Danmap R. In support

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

325

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

of ground troops, 42 A-20s attack enemy positions in Sarmi area, demolishing pillboxes and huts with 14.8 tons of bombs and by strafing. Forty RAAF P-40s are active over Vogelkop area, scoring hits on AA positions, bridges, and camps in Moemi-Waren-Andai areas; suspension bridge at Moemi destroyed.

Bismarcks-Solomons Personnel areas in New Ireland attacked by 12 SBDs, 15 F4Us, and 4 B-25s; Kavieng airfield bombed by 14 F4Us and 2 Venturas; strikes against Rabaul and Bougainville targets cancelled because of adverse weather.

23 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps First Brig of 1st Cav Div reverts to Corps control; 1 regt is to continue occupation of hill mass W of highway #1 and the other to assemble in Marasbras area, about 2½ mi. N of Palo on Palo-Tacloban road; 2d Brig is driving up Tacloban Valley to clear San Juanico Strait and Janabatos Channel; gain of 3,600 yds. up highway #1 made by 8th Cav.

Attack westward from Palo by 24th Inf Div along highway #2 continues; 1st Bn of 34th Inf, with 1st Plat, 603d Tk Co, moves from area near Div CP to positions 500 yds. N of Hill 522 to attack Hill "C" on N side of road; following air strike against reported 300 enemy holding strongpoint between Hill 331 and Hill "C", Co "B" advances up slope almost to top of steep ridge to E of hill where enemy MG fire and grenades are encountered; 2 men reach crest of hill and hurl grenades at advancing Japanese while "B" Co withdraws; arty fire is then concentrated on enemy position. Following intense arty barrage laid down on Hill "B", 2d Bn of 19th Inf by-passes enemy position, moving around Div S flank to capture E peak of Hill; then "E" Co attacks a higher peak farther W, encountering enemy fire from caves and prepared positions which forces withdrawal; Bn perimeter for night established on E slope S of Hill "B" (which turns out to be not 1 hill but a hill mass of 3 ridges joined together on S and also a parent ridge); arty fire is concentrated on enemy positions on hill mass throughout night. Naval planes attack enemy positions on Hill "B" to S of Hill "B". Small enemy group in hill near Palo

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

23
Cont

perimeter, causing huge fire by attaching land mine to an SPM; in mopping up operations, 2 Japanese posing as Filipino women are killed along bank of Palo R.; "K" Co of 3d Bn, 19th Inf, moving S from Palo (to gain contact with elements of 96th Div, XXIV Corps), crosses San Joaquin bridge and reaches outskirts of town, finding entrance blocked by pillboxes and tank barriers; Co withdraws under cover of naval gunfire and an air strike. Corps arty (1 bn of 8-in. how and 1 bn of 155-mm how) is made available to Div; at 1100, arty observation planes are airborne.

XXIV Corps Corps CP aboard USS Mt. Olympus closes to open at Calbasag at 1200 hours; Corps Commander, Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge, takes command ashore at 1500.

Ninety-sixth Div troops initiate advance N toward Tanauan and continue drive NW toward Tabontabon. Elements of 1st Bn, 383d Inf, mop up scattered resistance in Liberanan Head area while other units with 2 plats of light tanks, 763d Tk Bn, advance N on coastal road toward Tanauan and secure San Roque; tank plats pass through Telegrafo and are within 5 mi. of Tanauan by 1600; garrison of light tanks, AT weapons, and Inf cannon is set up in this area. Second and 3d Bns of 383d Inf, pushing N of Anibung, break up organized resistance in vicinity of Andangay to reach Pikas area; defensive perimeter is established on high ground (NW of Catmon Hill) on N bank of the Guinarona R., about 1 mi. W of Tabontabon; troops of 382d Inf pushing NW are nearing the Julita-Hindang road.

Pursuing a disorganized enemy (elements of Japanese 16th Inf Div), 7th Div troops drive W to Burauen, seizing Julita and San Pablo town and airfield; attack is spearheaded by 767th Tk Bn, followed by 17th Inf and 2d Bn of 184th Inf, astride the Dulag-Burauen road; advance of 184th Inf (less 2d Bn) and 32d Inf on L and R of 17th Inf, respectively, is impeded by terrain difficulties; tank units reach W outskirts of Burauen.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

23
Cont. Naval bombardment by units of 7th Fleet continued in support of ground troops on Leyte I.; naval aircraft fly 190 sorties over Visayan areas; claims include 25 enemy planes destroyed on ground, 1 in air, and 3 by AA fire; 2 U.S. fighters lost. In 589 sorties by planes of TF 38 (20-23 Oct) over Central Philippines, S Luzon, and N Mindanao, 209 tons of bombs are dropped, causing destruction and damage to ground targets on major airfields; only 17 enemy airborne planes encountered, 14 of which are shot down for loss of 3 U.S. planes; 22 enemy ships (mostly in Manila Bay), including 2 large APs, 2 AOs, and 5 medium AKs, sunk; 51 more ships, not including small craft, claimed damaged or probably sunk. Japanese naval units off SW tip of Palawan I. attacked by 7th Fleet submarines, Darter and Dace; 2 CAs (Atago and Maya) sunk, and 1 CA (Takao) damaged, as Singapore force moves northeastward. U.S. 3d Fleet units from positions at noon in area approximately 260 mi. NE of Samar I. proceed S to reach positions off E coast of Philippines during night: TG 38.3 about 60 mi. off Polillo Is., TG 38.2 close in to San Bernardino Strait, and TG 38.4 about 60 mi. off S coast of Samar. TG 38.1, moving toward Ulithi and about 635 mi. off coast of Samar, turns around and concentrates toward TG 38.2.

Enemy hq buildings near Cotabato, W Mindanao, fired by 110 tons of bombs dropped by 44 B-24s; 5 buildings at Cagayan wrecked by 12 more B-24s with 27 tons; 11 P-38s set 3 small vessels ablaze in Macalajar Bay and roam inland, strafing lines of communication; 20 MT on Digos-Cagayan road hit. Enemy airstrip on Busuangi I., SW of Mindoro I., bombed before dawn by 2 B-24s. Enemy floatplane W of Tawi Tawi (Sulu Archipelago) sunk by 10 B-25s; 5 AKs (3,000-7,000 tons) and 5 luggers off Zamboanga and in Jolo Harbor damaged by 12 B-25s and 8 P-38s.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Attack by small force of enemy troops against U.S. outpost N of Pitoe airfield (Morotai I.) repulsed; 37 enemy killed. Eighteen P-38s and P-40s bomb enemy barracks along W coast of Halmahera I. with good effect. Blockade of Makassar Strait maintained by B-24s and P-38s; single B-24 attempting to sink sea-truck off Makassar is attacked by 4 enemy planes; no damage results; 2 more B-24s explode 1 small AK, fire 3 small vessels, leave another sea-truck listing, and damage other craft in area. In sweep over Bocloedowang airfield, S of Makassar, 13 P-38s shoot down 5 enemy planes and probably 2 more; 1 enemy

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

grounded bomber destroyed and approximately 100 casualties caused by 7 more P-38s in surprise attack on Limboeng airfield. Six small vessels off NE Borneo strafed during night by PBY.

Banda Sea Area: Fuel supplies and waterfront facilities at Boela bombed with more than 20 tons by 24 A-20s, 2 B-25s, and 12 P-38s which destroy pumping station, 2 oil tanks, and 1 enemy plane; Kairatoe airfield and dispersal areas attacked by 12 A-20s, 1 B-25, and 32 P-47s; Ambon town fired by 23 B-25s; 11 P-38s damage buildings at C. Noesanive by strafing runs while 13 P-47s raid Haroekoe airfield. Four B-24s attack Maoemere, Flores I., silencing 5 AA positions, exploding fuel dumps, and damaging warehouses with 17 tons of bombs; Namlea runways, Boeroe I., bombed by 2 B-24s; 3 B-24s and 6 Beaufighters operate over Timor I., hitting MT, C. Chater airfield, and Lautem village.

New Guinea Seven B-24s unload 28 tons of bombs on ammunition dumps at Wewak Pt.; Matapau village bombed by 6 Beauforts. Attacks on enemy concentrations and pillboxes along Sawar-Orai rivers, in Sarimi area, continued by 45 A-20s which drop 15 tons of bombs and conduct strafing runs for 1 hour. Twenty-four A-20s and 2 B-25s bomb Babo airfield, dropping 26 tons on runway and revetment areas; Sagan airfield raided by 13 P-47s; Beaufighters and RAAF P-40s fly 45 sorties over DNG area, attacking bivouac areas and shipping.

Bismarcks-Solomons Single B-25 harasses Rabaul area before dawn; Kavieng airfield and plantations in N New Ireland raided by 4 B-25s, 12 F4Us, and 5 Venturas. Enemy camp areas in N Bougainville bombed by 26 New Zealand F4Us; shipping hulks off Kahili hit by 3 TDRs.

24 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, Commanding General of Sixth Army, assumes command ashore at 1600 hours; 6th Army CP is established at San Jose, near southern end of Tacloban airfield.

X Corps First Cav Div (less 1st Brig) advances rapidly along San Juanico Strait to occupy Diit, Uban Pt., and Guirguian (northernmost terminal on

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

24
Cont

highway #1); 2d Sq of 8th Cav is pushing NW over hazardous terrain along Diit R. toward Lukay, in hills separating Leyte and Tacloban Valleys. Elements of 8th Cav make 17-mi. amphibious drive up E coast of Leyte and cross San Juanico Strait, invading Samar I.; unopposed landing is made at La Paz, about 90 mi. SE of Luzon; simultaneously, 1st Sq of 7th Cav by amphibious leap seizes Babatngon on N coast of Leyte at NW end of Strait; LCIs subjected to severe bombing and strafing attack.

Twenty-fourth Inf Div continues attacks against enemy-occupied hills W and NW of Palo, and seizes Hill 85 and San Joaquin to S. Second Bn of 19th Inf by-passes strongly fortified peak dominating its position on first peak of Hill "B", moving to R to position overlooking narrow asphalt road running from highway #2 to enemy supply dumps to S. Troops of 34th Inf make gains toward Hill "C"; 1st Bn occupies steep ridge to E of hill, and 3d Bn passes through 1st Bn, occupying second ridge; no resistance encountered; arty fire is then concentrated on main ridge. Hill 85 (N knoll) is occupied by elements of 1st Bn, 19th Inf; no opposition met; abandoned enemy positions, ammunition, and 6 dead Japanese found. Enemy pocket, containing 8 men and 1 MG on Hill 522, is eliminated by elements of 1st Bn of 19th Inf; during night 3 enemy killed penetrating Bn CP. San Joaquin is cleared by elements of 3d Bn, 19th Inf; repair work on San Joaquin bridge to permit armd units to move S from Palo along highway #1 commenced by 302d Eng. At 0330 hours, enemy force from SW, armed with grenades, AT mines, swords, and small arms, and with a band of Filipino civilians in front of them calling "Me guerrilla", knock out several MGs and a 37-mm tank gun to reach Palo town square where they man captured MGs to spray town and bridgehead with 50-mm fire; after destroying and damaging considerable amount of equipment, enemy attacks Palo R. bridge; 12 guards rake bridge with heavy fire, and Eng to N of bridge open fire as attackers come off bridge; all guards at bridge killed or wounded but 3; 14 U.S. troops killed and 20 wounded; 60 enemy dead counted. Enemy attack also launched during early morning hours against perimeter of 2d Bn of 34th Inf; 18 enemy killed;

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

24
Cont

enemy suicide squad infiltrates area adjacent to 605th Evacuation Hospital, killing 2 arty machine-gunners and manning captured MG to spray area, killing several men in hospital; 6 Japanese dead counted; 2 men killed and 1 wounded of 13th FA Bn of beach perimeter by sniper fire.

Div gives first mission to organized Filipino guerillas; an officer and 5 men of 95th Inf, who contact 24th Inf Div at Palo, are ordered to disrupt all enemy communications SW from Palo and harass enemy movements wherever possible. Congestion in Palo becomes critical; 5,000 Filipinos are moved to areas along roads outside town.

XXIV Corps Entire Corps of about 55,000 men and 85,000 tons of cargo established ashore.

Tank platoon enters Tolosa, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mi. S of Tanauan. Vigorous patrolling of Pikas-Tabontabon area is initiated by 383d Inf, attempting to establish communications to rear; Tabontabon reported unoccupied. Heavy hostile fire from fortified position about 1 mi. S of Hindang is encountered by 3d Bn of 382d Inf; with aid of light tanks (which passed through 7th Div zone to Julita and turned N on Julita-Hindang road) enemy position is neutralized and Hindang won; 36 abandoned pillboxes found; Anibung, 1 mi. W of Hindang, secured by 2d Bn. Ninety-sixth Div rcn units pass through 7th Div zone to reconnoiter area to front and L flank of 382d Regt and reach point about 3 mi. N of Julita where advance is stopped by destroyed bridges and impassable terrain off road.

At 0830 hours, 7th Div continues attack westward; Bayug airfield and Burauen town secured by 17th Inf by 1200; (remnants of 2d and 3d Bns and Regt Hq, Japanese 20th Inf Regt, reported retreating W of Burauen and NW toward Hitomnog, about 1 mi. W of Dagami); 767th Tk Bn turns N on Burauen-Dagami road, encountering enemy minefield which destroys 4 tanks; arty fire destroys mine, and 17th Inf pushes N astride road on 800-yd. front to reach point about midway between Burauen and Guinaronga; 184th Inf remains in Burauen area to protect rear of Div. Meanwhile, 32d Inf is held up in attempt to capture Burauen airfield by numerous

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

331

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

24
Cont

field fortifications and mines (manned by elements of 2d Bn, 20th Inf, and of 3d Bn, 33d Inf, 54th and 114th airfield construction units, and 16th Div Eng); heavy enemy counterattack launched at 1700 hours is repelled by 1st Bn. Seventh Cav Rcn Tr patrols S of Dulag airfield to within 600 yds. of La Paz; some sniper fire and 1 enemy patrol met.

In early morning sweeps, carrier aircraft (3d Fleet) cover radius of about 300 mi. from carriers to locate enemy fleet units: 3 DDs just W of Panay I., 2 BBs, 1 CA, and 4 DDs SW of Negros I., and 5 BBs, 5 CAs, 3 CLs, and 13 DDs moving eastward toward the Sibuyan Sea, about 7 mi. off S end of Mindoro I., are sighted. Enemy southern force attacked by TG 38.4 planes which report bomb and rocket hits on BBs and rocket hits on CAs and DDs; 1 DD, W of Panay I., set on fire and another damaged by rockets. TG 38.4 then proceeds N and strikes enemy central force; 1 BB (Musashi) reported set on fire and probably sunk, 2 more BBs hit, 1 CL and 1 DD sunk, 1 more DD probably sunk and 4 damaged. TG 38.2 launches 3 strikes against central force during day, claiming torpedo and bomb hits on 4 BBs; 1 CA possibly sunk and 2 more CAs hit by torpedoes. TG 38.3 launches sweeps of W Luzon coast and of Manila airfield and prepares for "deck-load" strike against center force in Sibuyan Sea when enemy planes approach TG from W; 2 series of attacks by 40-50 planes are broken up by fighters of the Princeton (CVL) and the Lexington (CV); 34 enemy planes reported shot down by Princeton fighters; at 0939 enemy dive bomber scores direct hit on the Princeton, causing terrific explosions and fires; Princeton is sunk at 1749 by friendly torpedoes; CL Birmingham, and DDs Irwin, Morrison, and Gatling, damaged in attempt to aid the Princeton, leave TG for Ulithi; casualties to Princeton personnel reported as 7 known dead, 101 missing, and about 190 wounded; 229 killed, 4 missing, and 426 wounded on CL Birmingham. TG 38.3 intercepts 2 more attacks of enemy planes, majority coming from Luzon and some carrier-type, and also launches 2 attacks against central force, reporting 2 BBs, 4 CAs, and 2 CLs damaged. In aerial battles, approximately 150 enemy planes reported shot down. In center force, 1 CA (possibly Hagura) confirmed sunk, and the Musashi (BB) sunk in attempt to salvage her. Enemy carrier force is located at 1640 hours by 3d Fleet planes near 18-30 N, 125-30 E, approximately 200 mi. off C. Engano on N tip of Luzon I. and

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

24 about 190 mi. from TG 38.3; at approximately 2030, U.S. 3d
Cont Fleet units speed N to engage this force. Coincident with approach of Japanese Fleet, enemy aerial sorties are increased; 150-200 planes are airborne, attempting to attack U.S. beach-heads and shipping in Leyte Gulf; 66 enemy planes reported shot down and 18 others probably destroyed by 7th Fleet aircraft; several enemy dive bombers break through fighter screen, scoring bomb hits on Sonoma (ATO), setting LCI (1065) on fire, and damaging Fremont (APA) by strafing.

Enemy bivouacs and installations near Buayan airfield in Davao area take 46.5 tons of bombs from 18 B-24s which demolish 7 buildings and fire small craft in surrounding waters; 12 B-25s strafe schooners in Sarangani Bay, wreck warehouses in area, and sweep overland, attacking personnel areas and MT in Cotabato-Kiambi sector with good results. One of 4 B-24s, searching for shipping in the Sulu Sea, bombs pier at Jolo town, causing explosion.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Four RAAF P-40s and U.S. PTs strafe buildings and fire fuel stores on Halmahera I.; warehouses and pillboxes in Amoerang Bay area attacked by 16 RAAF P-40s. B-24s maintain air blockade of Makassar Strait. Four B-24s and 18 B-25s drop 24 tons of bombs on port facilities, bivouacs, and airfield at Sandakan (NE Borneo) with excellent results; escort of 14 P-38s and 10 P-47s fires 11 sea-trucks and 4 luggers.

Banda Sea Area: Adverse weather curtails air activity. Eleven RAAF A-20s and 1 B-24 bomb Boela town and derricks area; warehouses and control tower near Ambon town damaged by 14 P-38s; 11 more P-38s hit Namlea airfield. Three B-24s bomb Governor's residence and enemy hq at Lahang (Timor I.) with unobserved results; Lautem airfield raided by single B-24.

New Guinea Six Beaufighters attack enemy positions along Danmap R. and at Wewak Pt. Scattered targets on the Vogelkop attacked by 32 RAAF P-40s; airfield and installations at Babo hit with 21 tons of bombs by 1 B-25, 12 A-20s, and 55 P-47s; 12 more A-20s and 10 P-47s strike Moemi, Otawiri, Sagan, and Manokwari runways; results obscured by cloud cover; 1 P-47 lost over Babo to AA fire.

Bismarcks-Solomons Rabaul harassed before dawn by single B-24; 8 F4Us strafe Tora airfield and destroy 2 enemy fighters; MT in vicinity of Rabaul hit by 12 New Zealand F4Us. Eight

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

333

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

B-25s, 22 F4Us, 36 SBDs, and 5 Venturas operate over New Ireland, dropping 8 tons of bombs on Kavieng airfield and cratering roads and wrecking 2 bridges with 31 tons. Enemy personnel and supplies at Panga and shipping in Empress Augusta Bay are targets for 13 SBDs and 40 Marine and New Zealand F4Us.

25 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Second Brig, 1st Cav Div, consolidates positions in Babatngon area; control of San Juanico Strait is virtually assured. Elements of 1st Brig support advance of 24th Inf Div along Div boundary and in 24th Div zone. On Samar I., Co "C" of 8th Cav repels enemy counterattack (estimated 100); Japanese withdraw northward; patrols of 302d Rcn Tr covering S and SW coast contact only small enemy groups.

Hills dominating highway #2 are seized by troops of 24th Inf Div. Third Bn of 34th Inf occupies crest of Hill "C" at 1700 hours; enemy MG fire and grenades cause numerous casualties in "I" Co; 2d Bn (relieved of defense of Pawing by elements of 1st Cav Div) attacks enemy positions on small hill to SE of main ridge; "E" Co advancing in single file up slope encounters heavy enemy fire from well entrenched positions at some distance from crest which forces withdrawal; after 2-hour pounding of hill positions by arty and 81-mm mortars, only minor opposition is encountered by 2d Bn which captures hill and then assembles in Malirong area, astride highway #2 about 2½ mi. W of Palo. Hill mass "B" blocking entrance to Leyte Valley from S side of highway #2 captured by 19th Inf; Cos "G" and "E" of 2d Bn move down slope and across road; "G" Co reaches crest of hill and holds position despite heavy enemy fire from prepared positions and from by-passed second peak and from portion of hill farther W which is silenced by arty fire; as soon as remainder of Bn joins "G" Co, "G" Co moves out to main crest of Hill "B"s western portion; during night, remainder of 2d Bn (less "F" and "H" Cos) moves on compass course, intending to reinforce "G" Co and reaches

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

25
Cont

peak of hill looking directly down on highway #2; enemy unoccupied positions found. Meanwhile, 1st Bn of 19th Inf (relieved by elements of 1st Cav Div) joins its reinf plats on Hill 85 and pushes on to S knoll, gaining complete control of hill. Elements of 3d Bn, 19th Inf, occupy Castilla, about 8,000 yds. WSW of Palo; 2 enemy killed and 1 U.S. troop bayoneted; all Filipinos are kept out of town perimeter to prevent enemy-masked attack; Co "K" of 3d Bn continues advance on highway #1, S of San Joaquin, and occupies positions on N bank of the Kapahuan R.; patrols enter Tanauan, reporting town clear of enemy; contact made with elements of XXIV Corps. During night, the 11th FA fires 192 rounds of ammunition along highway #2 from 1,000 to 2,000 yds. beyond Santa Fe. In 24th Inf Div sector, enemy losses to date are counted at 1,928 killed; U.S. losses are 145 killed, 41 missing, and 452 wounded.

XXIV Corps Reinf platoon of 383d Regt, 96th Inf Div, with light tanks and 1 mtzd Eng plat advancing N along coastal highway from San Jose repairs bridge across the Tanauan R. and sends patrol through Tanauan; 7 enemy killed; contact established by 1600 hours with Co "K" of 19th Inf (X Corps) at the Binahaan R. bridge. Turning attack N from Hindang astride Julita-Tabontabon road, 382d Inf reduces enemy position at Aslom where 1st Bn turns W on road through Tabugnon while 3d Bn continues N on Tabontabon road; units of 321st Eng Bn and 362d FA Bn employed in construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. Co "K" of 383d Inf entering Tabontabon from W is pinned down by heavy MG and rifle fire (enemy force estimated at 1 bn, which had apparently entered town during night); Co "I" reinforces Co "K" to support withdrawal, leaving 7 dead and 2 wounded for estimated 25 Japanese killed; enemy counterattack by estimated reinf plat from NW slope of Catmon Hill (E of San Vicente) against perimeter of 383d Inf is made at 1600 hours; 25 Japanese killed and balance withdraws. Ninety-sixth Div regains control of 3d Bn (reinf) of 381st Inf at

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

25
Cont

Rcn in force by 17th Inf (7th Div) with tank support is conducted N of Burauen to Ginogusan; 32d Inf continues attacks in Buri area where determined Japanese resistance (estimated 1,000 troops) limits gains to 800 yds; scattered enemy groups S of Burauen contacted by patrols of 184th Inf.

Sixth Ranger Inf patrols report Japanese Navy survivors coming ashore about 5 mi. S of Loreto on Dinagat I.

Battle of Surigao Strait: During early morning hours, Japanese southern force (2 BBs, 1 CA-XCVS, and 4 DDs) enters Surigao Strait. First radar contact with enemy main force is made at 0244 hours. Seventh Fleet units (6 OBBs, 8 CLs, 21 DDs, and 39 PTs), under tactical command of Rear Admiral J.B. Oldendorf, are stationed so that enemy force is first struck by PTs, then encounters torpedo attacks by DDs, and finally at N end of Strait meets CLs and BBs, which open up with gunfire at about 0350, and succeed in crossing the enemy's "T"; at 0411 when BBs cease firing, enemy ships still afloat are retiring to S; at 1640, 2 CLs and 3 DDs proceed S through Strait to polish off possible cripples; 1 DD fired and sunk at 0721 hours; the Mogami (CA-XCVS) and the Shigure (DD) get away. Damage to Japanese Fleet reported by Commander of 7th Fleet (sinkings confirmed): 2 BBs (Fuso and Yamashiro) and 3 DDs (Yamagumo, Mishishio, and Asagumo) sunk. USS Albert W Grant (DD) fired by about 7 enemy 4.7" projectiles and about 11 U.S. 6" AP; 34 ship's personnel killed, 90 wounded, and 1 missing. It is believed that the enemy force which came up Surigao Strait night of 24th consisted of the attack group, followed by a transport group (probably 4-5 CAs or CLs and 6 DDs) which probably turned around at S end of Strait to make run for Cebu I. or Ormoc Bay. Air strike by TG 77.4 results in possible sinking of Ashigara (CA) S of Panaon I. and inflicts further damage to enemy vessels in Sogod Bay.

Battle off Samar: Enemy central force, probably consisting of 4 BBs, 6 CAs, 2 CLs, and 11 DDs, engages 7th Fleet escort carrier force off E coast of Samar. Between 0659 and 0930 hours, TU 77.4.3, consisting of 6 CVEs, 3 DDs, and 3 DEs, under command of Rear Admiral C.A.F. Sprague, is pursued, overhauled, and fired upon by the enemy. While enemy force encounters determined resistance, it executes rearguard action by TU 77.4.3, which launches all planes

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

25
Cont when attack begins and counters enemy attacks with gunfire of CVEs and torpedoes of DDs and DEs; USS Gambier Bay (CVE) DDs Hoel and Johnston, and DE Samuel B. Roberts sunk by enemy gunfire; damage also inflicted on CVEs Fanshaw Bay and Kalinin Bay. At 0830, planes of TUs 77.4.1 and 77.4.2 join in attacks on enemy ships, making 453 sorties and dropping 191 tons of bombs and 83 torpedoes; 17 VFs and 18 VTs lost in combat; about 100 planes make emergency landings on Tacloban airfield, 20 of which crash-land. While carrier aircraft are attacking enemy force, Japanese dive bombers attack ships of TU 77.4.3, damaging CVEs Kitkun Bay and Kalinin Bay; at 1035 enemy suicide plane crashes on flight deck of CVE Saint Lo, causing 7 explosions; Saint Lo goes down at 1125; TU 77.4.1 is also hit by enemy dive bombers which cause fires and explosions on CVEs Swanee and Santee; Santee receives damaging torpedo hit by enemy SS. After breaking off gunnery action at 0930, enemy force changes course several times; at 1046 proceeding NE, at 1245 heading directly for Leyte Gulf, and after 1310, retiring to northward toward San Bernardino Strait. At approximately 1310, 53 planes of TG 38.1 (3d Fleet) attack enemy ships steaming N along coast of Samar; 53 more planes make second strike on retiring ships at 1500; 65 tons of bombs dropped and 64 rockets fired; 4 bomb hits on Yamato, 4 on a Kongo, 1 on Nagato, and 5 on unidentified BBs, as well as hits on 5 CLs and 4 DDs reported; 10 VBs and 1 VF missing. TF 34.5 (2 BBs, 3 CLs, and DD Sq 52) with TG 38.2 (3d Fleet) arrive off E coast of Samar after enemy force has withdrawn through Strait. Damage to Japanese Fleet by combined air and surface attacks estimated by Commander of TF 77: 2 CAs (Chikuma and Suzuya) and 1 DD sunk; 1 BB (Yamato), 1 CA, and 1 DD heavily damaged; 2 CAs, 1 CL, and 1 DD damaged. Total casualties to ship personnel of TU 77.4 reported as 473 killed, 1,220 wounded, and 1,110 missing.

Battle off C. Engano: Third Fleet units, TGs 38.2, 38.3, and 38.4, proceed northward from point about 150 mi. NE of Bernardino Strait to attack enemy norther force; at 0205, search plane from the Independence contacts 2 groups of 6 enemy ships each, the nearest one being about 80 mi. N of U.S. carriers; at 0735, enemy carrier force is reported moving northward about 140 mi. distant from TF 38. Sixty VEs, 65 VBs, and 55 VTs, already 50 mi. N of carriers when contact is made, attack enemy force, consisting of 2 XCV/BBs, 1 CV, 3 CVLs, 5 CLs, and 6 DDs, at approximately 0830 hours; only 15-20 enemy planes are airborne and majority are shot down;

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC WATER

25 Cont 20 1,000-pound AP, 115 500-pound SAP, and 10 100-pound GP bombs; as well as considerable amount of rocket and MG ammunition expended; 1 CVL sunk and another left dead in water; 1 CV, 1 XC/BB, 1 CL, and 2 DDs reported damaged. At 1055, Commander of 3d Fleet, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., detaches TF 34 and TG 38.2 from northern force to move southward and reinforce Leyte area. Commander of TF 38, Vice Admiral M.A. Mitscher, continues attacks against enemy carrier force with planes of TGs 38.3 and 38.4, making 4 more strikes during day; final attack made at 1710 hours. Two CAs, 2 CLs, and 12 DDs (which remained with TF 38 after TF 34 moved S) eliminate cripples, sinking 1 CVL and 1 DD; 3 SSs join in attack on retiring enemy ships, probably sinking CA (Ibuki) with 6 electric torpedoes fired at 1844; in second attack by 3 more SSs at 2301 hours, 1 CL (probably Abukuma) is sunk. Damage to Japanese Fleet reported by commander of 3d Fleet (sinkings also confirmed by other sources): 1 CV (Zuikaku), 2 CVLs (Chitose and Chiyoda), and 1 DD sunk by carrier planes; 1 CVL (Zuiho) and 1 DD damaged by carrier planes and sunk by cruisers; 1 CV (Natori) damaged by bomb hits and sunk by SS; 1 CL (Tama) damaged by bombs and possibly sunk; 2 XCV/BBs (Ise and Hyuga), 1 CA (Ashigara), 1 CL (Oyodo), and 3 DDs damaged; 1 CL (Kiso) and 1 DD not damaged. No damage is inflicted on any ships of 3d Fleet; 10 aircraft reported destroyed by enemy gunfire.

Japanese naval units in Mindanao Sea attacked by 56 B-24s which damage 1 CL and score many near misses on other ships with 92.25 tons of bombs; naval auxiliary vessel fired by 28 P-38s and 8 P-37s; weather prevents 30 B-25s from participating in attack. Small enemy AK off N coast of Palawan I. sunk by 2 B-24s which also destroy 1 floatplane and damage other small craft off Puerta Princesa. Seven of force of 40-50 enemy bombers break through Allied fighter defenses to attack U.S. positions on Leyte beachhead, causing some damage to installations; AA fire downs 5; fighters claim majority of force destroyed; 3 U.S. fighters lost. Enemy planes raid Tacloban area, destroying dock and warehouse and sinking 2 LSTs offshore; no U.S. fighters in area during strike; ordnance works and engineer dumps in Dulag area also attacked by enemy planes which cause large fires and loss of ammunition. Five enemy DDs and several barges unload reinforcements (41st Inf Regt, 30th Div, from Mindanao) at Ormoc.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Ambesia airfield near Kendari (Celebes I.) is target for 23 U.S. B-24s which crater runways and revetments; 1 B-24 destroyed, 1 B-24 grounded plane,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

and sink 1 schooner and damage other small craft in Boetoeng Strait; 6 more B-24s strike jetty and warehouses at Malili and Palopo at head of Gulf of Bone; enemy bivouacs in Manado area (NW Celebes) hit by B-24; off Borneo coast, small AK and sea-truck damaged and 3 small vessels sunk by 2 B-24s. Dock areas at Wasile and Kaeo bays (Halmahera I.) strafed by 8 RAAF P-40s, 2 B-25s, and 2 Beaufighters.

Banda Sea Area: Piroe town and AA positions and warehouses in area attacked by 23 B-25s and 32 P-47s; 12 P-47s bomb Halong seaplane base while 16 other P-47s destroy pier and lugger at Seleman Bay by skip-bombing; 17 B-25s start fires at Ambon town and destroy 1 power boat by strafing; Haroekoe airfield takes 12 tons of bombs from 24 A-20s and 1 B-25; sawmill near Haroekoe fired by 12 RAAF P-40s; radio towers and 3 schooners in C. Nbesanive area strafed by 2 B-25s. Six Beaufighters and 3 RAAF B-25s sweep over Timor I., strafing villages and pack train in Mina R. area; C. Chater airfield bombed by single B-24.

New Guinea Eleven Beauforts attack personnel areas at Matapau and Boiken villages and on Kairiru I.; Wewak airfield hit by 3 more Beauforts. In Sarimi area, fuel and supply dumps in Sawar-Orai valleys exploded by 43 A-20s with 15.5 tons of bombs. Sixteen RAAF P-40s attack Moemi, Ransiki, and Manokwari airfields; gun positions in Kaimana area and other targets on S coast hit by 32 more RAAF P-40s.

Bismarcks-Solomons Buildings and MT along coastal roads on Gazelle Peninsula fired by 8 New Zealand F4Us; garden areas on Bougainville I. strafed by 14 New Zealand F4Us; other strikes prevented by adverse weather.

26 .Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps First Sq of 8th Cav crosses San Juanico Strait to La Paz, Samar I., and pushes N, establishing bridgehead across the Silaga R.; intensive rcn throughout S Samar continued. Second Sq of 8th Cav pushing NW of Diit moves into Leyte Valley in the Lukay-San Miguel area, about 11 mi. NW of Tacloban; 41 Japanese killed on mountain trail during advance.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

26
Cont

Boundary of 1st Cav Div zone is extended to include Palo and NE. portion of Leyte Valley; 12th Cav Rcn units mop up in Palo area.

Drive up Leyte Valley toward Carigara, on N coast of Leyte I., commenced by 24th Inf Div: 2d Bn of 34th Inf with 1 plat, 603d Tk Co, advances NW from Malirong, overcoming resistance at Manabana R. bridge; flank protection units are then pulled back on highway #2 and advance is speeded up to reach Santa Fe, about midway between Palo and Cavite, by nightfall; small enemy groups encountered en route are killed or routed; 3d Eng Bn puts by-passes in for 2 bridges which had been destroyed by enemy; 45 mines removed from highway between Barayong and Santa Fe; only 1 tank disabled. Third Bn of 19th Inf, backed by 1st Bn on Div S flank, moves SW of Castilla to attack Pastrana, about 3 mi. SW of Santa Fe and astride road leading S to Dagami; heavy enemy fire encountered by advance troops at outskirts of town; assault penetrates to within 100 yds. of enemy fortification, flanked by pillboxes and backed by system of tunnels; 2d Bn suffers heavy casualties. Enemy position shelled throughout night by arty. fire and 4.2 and 81-mm mortars.

XXIV Corps Following arty preparation, troops of 382d Inf, 96th Div, cross the Guinarona R. under enemy fire to reach outskirts of Tabontabon where heavy MG and rifle fire from dug-in positions halt advance; strong enemy counterattack, supported by mortars and arty fire, forces withdrawal to banks of the Guinarona; during night enemy mortar fire falls on perimeter of 382d Inf, while 96th Div arty fires enemy strongpoints within the town. Troops of 383d Inf, protecting E flank of 382d Inf, attack San Vicente Hill (NW of Catmon Hill) but are stopped by enemy SA, automatic, and mortar fire. March along coastal highway N to Tanauan, there to turn SW and proceed toward Dagami, is commenced by 3d Bn of 381st Inf, reinf; Tolosa, about 23 mi. S of Tanauan, reached. With tank support, 1st Bn (7th Div) attacking N along axis of Marauen-Dagami road clears Ginogusan; heavy enemy casualties inflicted. Troops of 32d

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER26
Cont

Inf with arty and tank support continue attacks N and W on Buri airfield, meeting strong opposition from MG pillboxes; limited "banzai" attack repulsed. Defense of Burauen area maintained by 184th Inf; tank plat patrols $3\frac{1}{2}$ mi. SE to Santa Ana without enemy contact.

Patrols covering N part of Dinagat I. report no contacts with enemy. Ten Japanese Navy personnel captured in area S of Loreto on Dinagat I. by elements of 6th Ranger Inf Bn are put aboard an LCI for Leyte; during voyage, 11 of ship's crew and 1 POW are killed in bombing and strafing raid by 2 enemy planes.

Carrier aircraft (TGs 38.1 and 38.2) make 3 strikes against retiring Japanese Fleet to E and S of Mindoro I., reporting 1 CA/XCVS (Mogami) and 3 CLs (Noshiro, Kitagami, and Abukuma) sunk; 4 BBs (Yamato, Kongo, Haruna), 2 CAs, and 4 DDs damaged; 12 enemy planes shot down near target; 8 carrier planes lost to AA fire; 1 CA dead in water off Samar also reported sunk. Enemy ships, reported retreating 25 mi. W of Panay I. in the Sulu Sea, are also subjected to 65 tons of bombs by 47 B-24s with escort of 33 P-38s; 2 direct hits and many near misses scored on 2 BBs; 1 CL set on fire; 1 B-24 shot down and 1 missing. Enemy air raids during day against U.S. positions on E coast of Leyte and carrier groups offshore are repulsed; 39 enemy planes claimed destroyed. In dawn raid on Tacloban, enemy raiders score direct hit on War Correspondent's quarters, causing casualties; at least 15 more raids are made by 1-8 planes on Tacloban area; E part of Tacloban airfield cratered; 1 Navy fighter fired and 10 men injured by strafing; 7 enemy planes destroyed. Iligan airfield (N Mindanao) cratered, and bridge 1 mi. S of airfield wrecked by 11 B-25s with 11 tons of bombs; communication facilities in Davao area attacked by 16 P-38s. Enemy floatplane off Palawan I. destroyed during night by PBAY.

During the period 24-26 Oct, in 1,588 sorties made by carrier aircraft of 3d and 7th Fleets, 741 tons of bombs are dropped and 285 torpedoes expended (not including data from CVEs Gambier Bay and Saint Lo); 370 enemy airborne planes, including planes at land targets, destroyed; 99 U.S. planes lost in combat; operational losses reported rather heavy. In addition to CAs Atago and Mayo sunk by U.S. submarines on 23 Oct, sinkings of 17 more Japanese vessels during battles for Leyte Gulf are confirmed from various sources:

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

341

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

26
Cont 3 BBs (Musashi, Fuso, and Yamashiro); 1 CV (Zuikaku); 3 CVLs (Chitose, Chiyoda, and Zuiho); 1 CA/XCVS (Mogami); 3 CAs (Susuya, Chikuma, and Chokai); 2 CLs (Noshiro and Abukuma); 4 DDs (Mishishio, Shigure or Nowake, Yamagumo, and Asagumo); 4 more cruisers and 6 other DDs reported sunk by commanders of 3d and 7th Fleets; 21 more combatant vessels reported damaged. Losses to U.S. combatant ships of 7th Fleet include: 2 CVEs, 2 DDs, 1 DE, and 1 PT sunk and 6 CVEs, 3 DDs, 1 DE, and 2 PTs damaged; 3d Fleet losses are 1 CVL (Princeton) sunk with CL (Birmingham) heavily damaged and several more cruisers and DDs damaged in attempt to give aid to the Princeton.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Twelve P-40s and U.S. PTs attack waterfront facilities and supply dumps at Djailolo and along Wasile and Kaeo bays and small craft in area with good results; lone enemy raider off Morotai I. repulsed by AA fire during night. Coastal steamer near Sandakan, N Borneo, sunk by B-24; another B-24 bombs warehouses at Mooetong, NW Celebes; Manado town also hit by single B-24.

Banda Sea Area: Major missions to Ceram-Ambon area cancelled because of adverse weather. Six RAAF A-20s bomb Hoenitetoe village in S Ceram. Two B-24s operating singly attack 6 barges off Dili, Timor I., and Tepa village in Tanimbar Is.

New Guinea Six B-24s escorted by 4 P-47s unload 24 tons of bombs on Wewak Pt.; 3 Beauforts and 6 B-25s score direct hits on Boiken village; AA position and naval gun near But, bombed by 6 more Beauforts. Gun emplacements and bivouac areas on Vogelkop Peninsula attacked by 28 RAAF P-40s; 2 B-25s and 20 A-20s loose 20 tons of bombs on Utarom airfield.

Bismarcks-Solomons Eighteen Beauforts from Goodenough I. make night attack on Tobera airfield, causing fires with 10.5 tons of bombs; buildings and MT in Rabaul area raided by 16 Marine and New Zealand F4Us and 1 TDR; direct hit scored on C. St. George lighthouse; AA fire downs 1 and holes another F4U. Kavieng airfield and plantation areas in N New Ireland effectively bombed by 8 B-25s, 25 F4Us, 6 SBDs, and 5 Venturas. Twelve SBDs and 60 Marine and New Zealand F4Us strike Bougainville targets; buildings on Fauro I. destroyed and supplies at Panga fired with 21 tons of bombs.

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER27 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps First Cav Div is directed to maintain security of highway #2 from Palo to Cavite; from Cavite, boundary between 1st Cav and 24th Inf Divs extends NW to point about midway between Carigara and Barugo on N coast of Leyte. To date, 739 enemy reported killed and 100, including some Formosans, captured in 1st Cav Div zone.

First Bn of 34th Regt, 24th Inf Div, passes through 2d Bn and advances 7,000 yds. NW of Santa Fe on highway #2, reaching Mudburon; no opposition met. Arty and mortar strike cripples enemy strong-point at Pastrana, enabling 3d Bn of 19th Inf to capture town; road block is set up at wrecked bridge several hundred yds. to SW; 1st Bn, aiding 3d Bn in mopping up operations, captures a 75-mm field piece on NW edge of town; 92 enemy killed. Air strike (requested by 19th Inf) on concentration of enemy troops in the Bonga Bonga-Abaca area, about midway between Pastrana and Dagami, gets under way but support is shortly withdrawn to interdict enemy planes over area.

XXIV Corps With arty support, 382d Inf, 96th Div, fights way back across the Guinarona to capture Tabontabon; path is cleared through town and 3d and 1st Bns move NE on trail to Kapahuan; 2d Bn encounters bitter opposition in NW part of town where battle is continued throughout night. Third Bn of 381st Inf reaches Tanauan, on N boundary of Corps, contacting troops of 19th Inf (X Corps) at the Binahaan R. bridge at 1330 hours; advance toward Kiling road junction halted by well prepared enemy position guarding bridge about 600 yds. SW of Tanauan. First Bn, 383d Inf, begins rcn in force against Labir Hill (SW of Catmon Hill); 1 reinf rifle co pushes NW against light sniper fire to reach base of steep slope where heavy enemy MG and rifle fire causes withdrawal. The 381st Inf (1st and 2d Bns) is released from 6th Army Reserve to 96th Div to attack Catmon Hill. 383d Inf (less 1st

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

27
Cont

Bn) maintains positions at NW end of Hill; 1st Bn is designated 6th Army Reserve. Commencing at 2100 hours and continuing until 1030 next day, arty units (361st, 198th, and 1 btry of 363d FA Bns, and the 780th Amph Tk Bn) fire successive concentrations on entire Catmon Hill mass.

After repairing 2 bridges, 17th Inf (7th Div) makes rapid strides to secure Burauen-Dagami road to a point 1,300 yds. S of Dagami. Patrols of 184th Inf cover area S, W, and E of Burauen on a radius of about 7,000 yds.; San Jose, San Andres, Santa Ana, Caridad, and Pusod reported clear. Seventh Cav Rcn Tr reaches Abuyog, approximately 15 mi. S of Dulag; no hostile troops contacted. Last organized enemy resistance on Buri airfield is crushed by 32d Inf (it is believed that the enemy, having suffered heavy casualties from inf-tank-arty assault, withdrew during night, leaving a small covering force); defense of Buri and Burauen airfields assumed by 3d and 2d Bns, respectively; 1st Bn returns to San Pablo airfield as Corps Reserve.

Enemy air raids during day reported decreasing in number and intensity; 16 enemy planes shot down by carrier aircraft (TGs 38.3 and 38.4) in sweeps over the Visayas and N Luzon; 4 more shot down over Tacloban by P-38s. During night U.S. PTs sink 2 coastal vessels and 10 troop-filled barges in Ormoc Bay area (W Leyte); also, at night 26 enemy raiders over Tacloban area are shot down.

Fighter aircraft of 308th Bomb Wing (Air TF of 5th AF), under command of Far Eastern Air Forces, commence operations from Tacloban airfield; 40 P-38s and P-47s sweep over the Visayas; 1 camouflaged DD fired off Cebu city and small AK off Mactan I. damaged. Five B-25s score near misses on enemy DD off Mindoro I. SW of Palawan I., enemy AO, 1 CL, and 1 DD are damaged by 2 B-24s and PBV; Lahug airstrip bombed by single B-24.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Weather again curtails air activity. Ten P-40s operate with PTs against Halmahera targets, hitting supply dumps and buildings at Miti and Galela airfields. Buildings at Ranau, Malili, and Palopo fired and 1 sea-truck sunk in Gulf of Bina. 5 B-24s.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

Banda Sea Area: Eleven Dutch B-25s bomb supplies near Macemere, Flores I., and sink 2 barges offshore. Eight Beaufighters and 1 B-24 strafe villages and MT near Dili, Timor I.; C. Chater airfield hit by single B-24.

New Guinea Enemy positions along Danmap R. in Wewak area bombed by 6 Beauforts; Kaimana bivouac areas fired with 9 tons of bombs by 24 RAAF P-40s.

Bismarcks-Solomons Fifty-four Marine and New Zealand F4Us, 18 SBDs, and 18 B-25s loose 28 tons of bombs on Praed Pt., destroying observation tower and 12 buildings; MT and gun installations in Rabaul area also heavily hit; AA fire holes 4 F4Us. During night 18 Beauforts drop 13 tons of bombs on Rabaul, causing fires. Eight B-25s, 23 SBDs, 14 F4Us, and 5 Venturas fire huts and buildings in New Ireland with 19 tons of bombs and by strafing. Personnel areas on Bougainville raided by 12 F4Us. Targets along coast of SE Bougainville and Gazelle Peninsula mortared by U.S. PTs.

28 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Fifth Cav of 1st Brig, 1st Cav Div, assembles in Palo area, freeing rear elements of 24th Inf Div for advance into Leyte Valley. Rcn in force commenced by 8th Cav troops in Lukay-San Miguel area and by 7th Cav along coast S of Babatngon toward Barugo; series of amphibious movements through Carigara Bay initiated to determine enemy strength in Carigara sector; enemy reinforces Carigara during night.

First Bn of 34th Regt, leading 24th Inf Div drive up Leyte Valley toward Carigara, passes through Alangalang and reaches approaches of the Mainit R. bridge just E of Cavite where enemy (remnants of 1st and 3d Bns, 33d Inf, 1st Bn of 22d Inf, and 1st Bn, 20th Inf) halts advance with rifle, MG, and mortar fire from positions on opposite bank of river; 1st Bn establishes base of fire on E bank of river; B Co moves to R of road and C to L side and both Cos push across field

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

28
Cont

to reach river bank where they are pinned down by MG fire; 2 tanks move down highway, destroying enemy pillbox at bridgehead; meanwhile "E" and "F" Cos cross river about 500 yds. N of highway, climbing up 20-ft. bank and pushing through dense undergrowth to road paralleling river running N to San Miguel; in swift attack S, Cos sweep past bridgehead, over-running 3 knee-mortars, destroying MG, and silencing sniper fire in woods to W; all but 1 enemy mortar falls to rear of advancing column; 44 dead Japanese counted; 3 men of F Co killed and 11 wounded; Mainit R. bridge captured intact; demolition charge consisting of 200 lbs. of Japanese Type 88 explosive and several cases of arty ammunition, with wires leading W, removed from bridge. Third Bn, 34th Inf, moves up behind 2d Bn, establishing contact S from Santa Fe with 19th Inf advancing on Div S flank. Number of drives are initiated by 19th Inf to prevent enemy troops in Dagami area from reaching Jaro, approximately 10 mi. SW of Carigara: 1st Bn establishes trail block near Macalpe, about 4 mi. SW of Pastrana and S of the Binahaan R., while 2d Bn establishes perimeter about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. to W of Macalpe at Tingib; vigorous patrolling conducted by 3d Bn in Pastrana area. During night, an enemy horse convoy conveying 75-mm ammunition from Dagami to Jaro approaches to within 5 yds. of Tingib outpost where MG disperses column; 16 enemy killed; ammunition and dead horses scattered along trail. Landing of Japanese 171st Inf Bn, 102d Div, in Ormoc area reported.

XXIV Corps Hostile resistance in Tabontabon is eliminated by 382d Inf of 96th Div; 381st Inf secures Labir Hill. Continuing advance NW of Tabontabon, 382d Inf (less 2d Bn), using arty, flame throwers, and demolitions, reduces strongly fortified position (consisting of pillboxes and spider holes, supported by 2 70-mm how and many 50-mm mortars) near Kapahuan, killing 47 enemy and reaching road junction about 2,500 yds. E of Dagami where 1st Bn turns E toward Kiling; enemy launches unsuccessful counterattack against 3d Bn's perimeter at road junction; 2d Bn moves N from Tabontabon, leaving 1 co to complete mopping-up operations within town;

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER28
Cont

approximately 350 Japanese killed in battle for Tabontabon. Meanwhile, 3d Bn of 381st Inf secures bridge SW of Tanauan and continues to within 200 yds. of Killing road junction; enemy counterattacks from road junction, causing slight withdrawal. Beginning at 1030, arty concentrations are fired over entire Catmon Hill mass, starting from bottom of Hill and advancing to top in 50-yd. bounds; at 1200 hours, when attack jumps off, arty fire is directed in advance of ground troops. From positions near Blue Beach #2, 381st Inf (less 3d Bn) moves to San Roque and launches attack against Catmon Hill; advancing up ridge from SE, 2d Bn meets no opposition and by dusk 2 companies reach crest of Labir Hill; heavy enemy fire prevents gains by 1st Bn on E slopes. During 24-hr. bombardment, total of 4,228 (105-mm how), 1,227 (155-mm how), and 200 (75-mm how) rounds of ammunition expended.

Heavy night rains wash out bridge just N of Ginogusan, preventing initial tank support for 17th Inf (7th Div) attack toward Dagami; 1 tank plat crosses first bridge between Ginogusan and Guinaronga where 3 tanks are knocked out by enemy action and 2 run out of ammunition; intense resistance is encountered from well prepared positions (pillboxes on high ground with intervening rice paddies) about 1,000 yds. S of Dagami where 2d Bn, 33d Inf Regt of Japanese 16th Div, and elements of 16th Eng Regt and of the 9th and 20th Inf Regts are committed in defense of Dagami. By flanking movement to R, supported by M-8s, 17th Div troops break through pillboxes on enemy's E flank; extension of L flank to W and S locates enemy's R flank; 15 enemy pillboxes destroyed and positions 300 yds. beyond enemy strongpoint gained by nightfall. Second and 3d Bns, 184th Inf, move about 3½ mi. S of Burauen, establishing regt CP at Santa Ana; 1 co with tank plat reaches barrio of La Paz.

Convoy of native craft bearing 80 troops of 6th Ranger Inf Bn embarks from Homonhon I. to wipe out enemy force (reported to be killing civilians in reprisal for U.S. landings on the island of Buluan I. Windstorm forces landing at Cagasan Pt. on E shore of Homonhon I.; troops

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

28
Cont

in 7 canoes which capsized about 300 yds. off shore are re-equipped with supplies from Black Beach #2.

Approximately 50 enemy planes attack U.S. shipping in Leyte Gulf area, employing suicide tactics against covering force; Denver (CL) damaged; 13 raiders shot down and 7 probables for loss of 4 naval planes; at dusk, interception by 10-12 enemy planes causes several planes of TG 38.3 to land at Dulag airstrip: several naval planes wrecked. P-38s destroy 2 enemy planes over Leyte I. and damage 2 of 17 raiders over Masbate I. Twenty enemy barges in Ormoc Bay strafed and more than 10 fired by naval planes; jetty in Bay area dive-bombed by 4 P-38s. Single B-24 scores direct hit on engine of enemy troop train at Bondo in SE Luzon; P-38 searching for airdrome sites in central Philippines shoots down 2 interceptors. Puerto Princesa airfield, Palawan I., raided before dawn by 2 B-24s which cause fires and explosions; in daylight attack on same target, 29 B-24s loose 36 tons of bombs, cratering runways and destroying 23 grounded planes and damaging 10-15 others; 3 floatplanes in harbor demolished; no enemy airborne planes or AA fire encountered. San Roque airfield near Zamboanga harassed before dawn by 2 B-24s; daylight raid on same target by 20 B-25s prevented by weather.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Kaoc and Miti airfields, Halmahera I., raided by 4 P-47s and 4 RAAF P-40s, respectively. In night attack, 24 B-24s release 27.5 tons of bombs in Makassar area, causing large fires on Wilhelmina Pier and throughout city. PBVs are active during night, bombing water front facilities at Brunei Bay, NW Borneo, and damaging CL and DD near Sandakan.

Banda Sea Area: Forty-four B-25s and 22 P-38s drop 42 tons of bombs on Ambon town and shipping in area; fires result; 1 power boat destroyed and several other small craft damaged. Eight Dutch B-25s bomb bridge near Waingapoe, Soemba I.; C. Chater airfield and Lautem area are targets for 2 B-24s; negligible damage results.

New Guinea Targets of opportunity in Wewak area bombed by 7 Beauforts; 5 B-24s and 4 P-47s drop 20 tons of bombs on Karawop village; near-by plantation areas attacked by 6 A-20s and 4 P-38s. Weather cancels air operations in DNG area.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

Bismarcks-Solomons Rabaul strikes cancelled because of weather. Four B-25s, 17 SBDs, 14 F4Us, and 2 Venturas attack New Ireland targets; 1 bridge and many buildings wrecked with 18 tons of bombs. Supply base at Panga and inland trails, Bougainville I., bombed by 69 Marine and New Zealand F4Us, 9 SBDs, and 2 TDFs. Shore targets along Choiseul Bay, NE New Ireland, and Gazelle Peninsula shelled during night by U.S. PTs.

29 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps First Cav Div troops are closing in on Carigara; elements of 5th Cav of 1st Brig move W from Palo to vicinity of Cavite; 1st Sq of 7th Cav occupies Barugo, about 3 mi. NE of Carigara; contact of 1st Sq, 7th Cav, moving S along coastal road made with 2d Sq, 8th Cav, advancing N from San Miguel; highway S from San Miguel to Cavite covered by 8th Cav patrols. On Samar I., troop E of 7th Cav establishes position at Binactic Pt. at SW tip of San Juanico Strait to insure safety of proposed naval installations.

After establishing contact with 1st Cav Div near San Miguel, 3d Bn of 34th Regt, 24th Inf Div, passes through 1st and 2d Bns and continues attack SW from Mainit R. bridgehead to reach Jaro road junction; "L" Co leading advance meets only sniper fire until within $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. of objective when enemy fire from entrenched positions at Galotan is encountered; attacks in plat strength are launched from both flanks and Galotan is cleared out shack by shack; 40 dead Japanese counted; meanwhile other elements, making wide enveloping movement to R, encounter heavy enemy fire from wooded area which is neutralized by mortar and arty; defenders then move N, setting up MGs about 500 yds. to W of road opposite center of advancing columns; 1 section of AT plat eliminates this threat and Bn captures Jaro at 1700 hours; 138 Japanese (2d Bn, 33d Inf) killed or captured; advance from Cavite to Jaro supported by 3d Eng Bn which changes course of Mainit R. with bulldozers to eliminate obstacle blocking road; another

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

29
Cont

washout on road by-passed. Enemy convoys continue to arrive in Ormoc Bay area; elements of Japanese 169th and 171st Independent Inf Bns and 2 bns of Japanese 102d Div have arrived by barges from Panay; the 20th Independent Antitank Bn, the Hq of 30th Div, the Hq of the XXXV Army (Corps) also reported on shore in this area.

XXIV Corps Elements of 96th Inf Div cut Tanauan-Dagami road with capture of Kiling junction while other units capture Catmon Hill. Arty fire reduces enemy strongpoint at Kiling road junction which is secured by 3d Bn of 381st Inf at 1400 hours; immense quantity of supplies, including radios, tires, and dynamite captured; meanwhile, 2d Bn, 382d Inf, advances N of Tabontabon, meeting only sniper fire and reaching Kiling at 1430 hours; 150 dead Japanese found in vicinity of San Victor (about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. N of Tabontabon). Relief of 3d Bn, 381st Inf (which returns by motor to San Roque, leaving 1 co of medium tanks) is effected; 2d Bn, 382d Inf, then turns W on Tanauan-Dagami road to join 1st Bn of 382d Inf; advance of Bn is halted by heavy enemy automatic fire from pillboxes astride road at Guingawan, about 1,200 yds. W of Kiling; at this point 1st and 2d Bns are about 1,200 yds. apart, with estimated 1 enemy co between them. Two enemy counterattacks against Div L flank are repulsed by 3d Bn, 382d Inf; 50 enemy killed. Second Bn of 381st Inf continues advance NW of Labir Hill to reach highest peak of Catmon Hill by 1300 hours; 1st Bn with arty support and direct fire from 45 tanks drives through fortified area and joins rear units of 2d Bn; advance is continued NW over Catmon Hill to mop up scattered resistance.

Following arty barrage, 17th Inf, 7th Div, pushes 1,000 yds. N against light resistance, eliminates several strongly defended enemy pockets at outskirts of Dagami, including cemetery which is cleared in hand-to-hand fighting and by flame throwers; outskirts of Dagami town reached by 1400 hours; at 1800 hours enemy counterattack is repulsed by 3d Bn with aid of arty fire; all hostile organized resistance in Corps beachhead broken; 3d Bn of 184th Inf moves S to La Paz and 2d Bn,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

29
Cont

32d Inf, preceded by 7th Cav Rcn Tr advances S along coast to Abuyog to clear area between the Abuyog-Baybay road and the Marabang R.

Five sailboats with 2d Plat of 6th Ranger Inf Bn aboard leaves Cagasan Pt., arriving at Suluan barrio, Suluan I., at 1130 hours; enemy planes are airborne but do not attack, apparently mistaking convoy for native fishing vessels. Patrols on Dinagat I. reconnoiter Siningog area, about 12 mi. S of Loreto, but fail to locate enemy garrison.

In sweep of Clark, Nichols, and Nielson airfields and the Cavite naval base, 47 VFs (TG 38.2) destroy 9 and 3 more probably of 24 enemy interceptors; 2 CAs and 1 DD at Cavite damaged by strafing; in 3 more strikes on targets in Manila area by total of 191 naval planes, hangar and fuel dump fired at Nielson, 5 large fires started in buildings and storage areas near Clark field, 1 CA possibly sunk and 1 CL damaged in Manila Bay; 53 enemy planes reported destroyed in air and on ground and 12 more probably for loss of 13 naval planes. Fourteen of 21 enemy planes engaged near TG 38.2 shot down during day; suicide diver causes minor damage to the Intrepid (CV). USS Eversole (DE) moving from Leyte Gulf to rejoin TU 77.4.1 is torpedoed and sunk by enemy SS which surfaces to strafe and drop anti-personnel bomb, killing or injuring everyone in water.

Typhoon centers over Leyte Gulf area hampering air activity. Nine P-38s fail to down enemy plane strafing Tacloban airfield; AA fire claims raider; 7 more P-38s shoot down 2 enemy aircraft over Biliran Strait and 1 more over Bantayan I.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Halmahera airfields bombed by 24 B-25s and 12 P-40s; gun installations and barracks in Wasile Bay area hit by 4 P-47s and 11 P-38s. B-24s continue patrol of Makassar Strait and Celebes Sea; 2 direct hits made on large AO in convoy S of Balikpapan; coastal vessel and sea-truck near Sandakan sunk.

Banda Sea Area: Weather prevents strikes in Ambon-Ceram area. Single B-24 attacks enemy barracks near Dili, Timor I.; 2 B-24s bomb Lautem airfield while 1 B-24 hits C. Chater. Gun positions in the Kei Is. hit by 1 RAAF B-25.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

New Guinea Six B-24s with 24 tons of bombs attack Wewak Pt.; Brandi Plantation hit by 14 B-25s; coastal targets from Dagua to Karawop bombed by 4 Beauforts. Two B-25s and 20 A-20s crater Utarom runway and cause fires in revetment areas with 18 tons of bombs; airfields at Moemi and Ransiki raided by 6 RAAF A-20s and 13 P-47s, respectively; Kaimana bivouac areas and other targets on S coast attacked by 24 RAAF P-40s.

Bismarcks-Solomons Radio station and buildings at Pondo Pt. hit with 20 tons of bombs by 20 SBDs, 12 F4Us, and 8 B-25s; huts and MT on Gazelle Peninsula attacked by 42 F4Us. Kavieng airfield raided by 12 F4Us and 2 Venturas; plantation areas in New Ireland bombed by 11 SBDs and 16 F4Us. Twenty Beauforts cover Rabaul area, dropping 10 tons of bombs with excellent target coverage. Buildings and MT hit, 1 bridge destroyed, and fuel dumps exploded by 15 SBDs, 16 Marine and New Zealand F4Us which loose 16 tons of bombs on Bougainville.

30 Philippine Is.U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Aggressive rcn of Carigara sector continued by elements of 1st Cav Div from Barugo; estimated enemy force of 800-1,000 reported in Carigara, with 1 btry of 75-mm guns emplaced along road W of town; 2d Sq sends 2 plats to outpost high ground from Tigbao, 3 mi. SE of Carigara, to Palo. Elements of 1st Brig operate in Cavite area, about midway between Palo and Carigara; bridge guards are established on Cavite-St. Miguel road by 1st Sq of 5th Cav; 12th Cav remains in Corps Reserve with rcn units mopping up enemy pockets of resistance by-passed by 24th Inf Div. Patrols are active on Samar I.; "E" troops of 7th Cav cover San Antonio area, about 1 mi. N of Binactic Pt., without enemy contact; 302d Rcn Tr operating along E coast of San Pedro Bay finds Legaspi area clear of the enemy.

Third Bn, 34th Regt (24th Inf Div) turns NW from Jaro to attack along 10 mi.-highway toward Carigara on N coast of Leyte; "E" Co leading column encounters heavy MG fire from enemy shacks lining road just outside Jaro. With tank support, advance

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST-PACIFIC THEATER

30
Cont

elements move to within 50 yds. of enemy positions but are forced to withdraw under heavy fire; arty barrage is then laid down on enemy positions and 3d Bn again attacks with "K" Co to L of road and "I" on R; advance is again halted at point about 500 yds. W of road bend by enemy arty, mortar, MG, and rifle fire; "L" Co, commencing flanking movement to L, encounters severe fire from ridge overlooking road about 500 yds. W of Jaro, forcing it to withdraw; "I" and "K" Cos are also pulled back. Enemy strong-points in vicinity of Jaro fired throughout night by 11th (155 how) and 63d (105-mm) FA Bns. Vigorous patrolling by 19th Inf troops S and SW of Pastrana continued: two reinf plats from "C" Co of 1st Bn encounter approximately 100 aggressive enemy troops at Rizal, across the Binahaan R. about 1 mi. SW of Macalpe; plats withdraw to permit arty strike which kills majority of force; 8 more Japanese killed at Kubas and 16 at Yapad; scattered enemy groups reported withdrawing into hills toward Ormoc. At midnight, enemy group from S openly approaching Pastrana is fired upon with 37-mm cannister, killing all but 2; 1 prisoner taken.

XXIV Corps First Bn, 382d Inf, moving E on road to Tanauan, encounters only light opposition at Guingawan and effects juncture with 2d Bn at 1430 hours; at 1445, patrols of 3d Bn of 382 Inf (96th Div) contact 2d Bn of 17th Inf (7th Div) about 1,800 yds. E of Dagami near Cerab, assuring control of the Tanauan-Dagami road; Dagami town (abandoned by enemy) occupied by 17th Inf. Corps beachhead line (Tanauan-Dagami-Burauen-Dulag) declared secure. San Vicente Hill, NW of Catmon Hill, occupied without opposition by 383d Inf of 96th Div; some SA fire encountered just N of San Vicente village; mopping up of enemy remnants on Catmon Hill continued by 381st Inf.

On return to Loreto from Siningog village, Dinagat I., fifteen patrols are attacked by enemy MG and mortars from hill position; despite fact that heaviest weapon carried by patrol is Browning automatic rifle, 1 enemy MG and 2 knee mortars are put out of action and 19 Japanese killed in charge up hill with no loss to Ranger patrol.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
UNCLASSIFIED

353

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

30
Cont

Vice Admiral M.A. Mitscher hauls down his flag on the Lexington as Commander 1st Carrier TF Pacific and shifts his administration to Pearl Harbor. He is relieved by Commander 2d Carrier TF, Vice Admiral J.S. McCain.

Severe rain and wind storms prevent main air strikes in Leyte-Samar area. Twelve B-25s with escort of 7 P-47s bomb San Roque airfield; several fuel barges off Zamboanga fired; 1 B-25 lost. Two B-24s bomb Bacolod airfield, Negros I., starting large fires and wrecking 4 grounded planes. U.S. PTs sink 2 fuel barges off N Mindanao. Four enemy planes shot down by planes of TG 38.4 approximately 100 mi. off Samar; suicide attacks made by 6 enemy planes at 1405 hours; 1 dives into flight deck of the Franklin (CV), causing extensive damage; another crashes the Belleau Wood (CVL), destroying 11 fighters; 3 are shot down.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Ten P-40s attack Halmahera targets, damage bridge in Amoerang Bay area, and fire 1 launch and 3 barges; 8 additional P-40s cause explosions in warehouses along Lembah Strait, NE Celebes. Forty-three P-38s wreck 10-12 planes on ground at Sandakan (N Borneo); 1 medium AO exploded and 2 more AOs, 2 sea-trucks, and 1 barge fired in surrounding waters.

Banda Sea Area: Twenty-four B-25s and 46 P-38s release 38½ tons of bombs on Piroe town and other targets in W Ceram with excellent coverage; enemy barracks in Ambon Bay area attacked by 12 A-20s. Six Dutch B-25s start fires at Matawi village, SE Soemba I.; Seha village on Sawoe I. (SW of Timor) bombed and strafed by 8 Dutch B-25s; C. Chater airfield and Lahane barracks each raided by single B-24.

New Guinea Wewak airfield cratered and fuel dumps fired by 6 B-24s with 24 tons of bombs; Boram airfield takes 3 tons from 5 B-25s; huts and installations on Kairiru and Mushu islands bombed by 5 A-20s.

Bismarcks-Solomons Twelve SBDs and 39 F4Us bomb supplies at Rataval, fire fuel dumps, and destroy buildings and MT in Rabaul area. Gun positions and plantations in New Ireland attacked by 6 SBDs, 24 F4Us, and 37 B-25s. Scattered targets on Bougainville harassed by 10 New Zealand F4Us.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

31 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Second Sq of 8th Cav, 1st Cav Div, moves from San Miguel to Barugo, joining 1st Sq of 7th Cav. Force of 150-200 enemy advancing NE on the Carigara-Barugo road is engaged in fire fight by Filipino guerrilla outpost, operating with 1st Sq of 7th Cav; 50 Japanese killed; small enemy force succeeds in crossing the Baluarte R. while remainder withdraws toward Carigara.

Attack along Jaro-Carigara highway toward Tunga is resumed by 3d Bn of 34th Inf, 24th Inf Div, supported by 2d Bn; "L" Co moves down road to position at rear of enemy occupied hill; "I" Co attacks astride road; "K" Co is in reserve. Second and 3d Plats of "I" Co advance under heavy fire to position to attack reverse slope of hill; 1st Plat moves directly up end of ridge from road with 2 sqs while a 3d sq, with tank attached, attempts to work up forward slope but is forced to withdraw under mortar fire. Two squadrons reach crest of hill and move W down its length, finding another hill; 2d and 3d Plats on reverse side of hill are pinned down by enemy fire from second hill. Arty barrage is then laid down on second hill; a heavy MG is moved to peak of first hill; 2 sqs with 1 tank then advance around forward slope; "I" Co storms and captures hill; enemy troops are driven off hills into positions at rear of hill where "L" Co clears area after 3 hrs. of bitter fighting. Meanwhile, 2d Bn advancing up road toward Tunga nears mouth of the Ginagan R. where enemy mortars and arty fire pin down an AT gun crew and mortar section; under cover of .50 calibre fire from MG mounted on jeep, advance elements are withdrawn, permitting neutralization of enemy position by arty fire; Bn then continues advance to the Yapan R. where fierce fighting takes place; 34th Regt suffers 108 casualties during day but Japanese troops of 41st Inf Regt, 30th Div, and 169th Inf Bn, 102d Div, also suffer heavy casualties and retreat during night. Patrols covering area N and E of Jaro-Carigara highway report no enemy in force threatens Div E flank. First Bn, 19th Inf,

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

31
Cont

moves into Jaro; other elements of regt continue to mop up enemy remnants in Pastrana sector.

XXIV Corps Shifting of 7th Div forces to S and W of Corps beachhead is initiated; 96th Div is employed as a holding force in the Burauen-Dagami area with 382d Inf RCT in reserve. Mopping up operations in Catmon Hill area completed; total of 53 pillboxes, 17 caves, and many small emplacements destroyed by demolitions.

Enemy casualties to date on Leyte I. reported as 9,345 killed and 179 captured; U.S. casualties total 835 killed, 2,779 wounded, and 345 missing.

Patrolling of Dinagat and Homonhon continued to prevent possible enemy reinforcement of island garrisons. After 11-hour fight with wind and current, remainder of native craft from Cagosan Pt. reach Suluan barrio; enemy garrison is located in lighthouse on top of 300-ft. cliff at S end of island; 6th Ranger troops prepare to attack.

Air strikes prevented by typhoon. For period of 27-31 Oct, 412 sorties are made by planes of TG 38; 114 of 250 enemy planes engaged and 11 grounded planes destroyed; 34 U.S. planes lost in combat. During month, China-based B-29s of XX Bomber Command and radar-equipped B-24s patrol China Sea throughout month, supporting Philippine operations.

N.E.I. Borneo-Celebes-Halmahera: Twenty-four B-24s make pre-dawn attack on Makassar area, causing large explosions and fires with 35.5 tons of bombs and by strafing; Palopa and Malili on N coast of Bone bombed by 6 RAAF B-24s. In NW Halmahera, buildings are wrecked by 8 P-40s while 9 B-25s bomb supply dumps in Wasile Bay area. Enemy dive bomber and 6 fighters attack Morotai I. during night, causing slight damage; AA fire downs 4 fighters.

Banda Sea Area: Twelve A-20s bomb village near Ambon town; Kairatoe airfield hit by 8 P-47s. Shore fire silenced in the Kei Is. and 2 barges offshore sunk by 4 RAAF B-25s; 2 more B-25s strike at gun positions on Alor I. Six Dutch B-25s attack enemy barracks and sink 1 large barge near Koepang, Timor I.; same planes strafe coastal vessels and sink heavily-laden sailboat off Flores I.

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VII: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

31 New Guinea In Wewak area, Boiken plantation is target for
Cont 6 B-24s with 24 tons of bombs; trails W of Wewak hit with 6
tons by 6 A-20s; Boram gun positions and huts on Kairiru I.
take 3½ tons from 6 B-25s while 7 Beauforts attack But re-
vetment areas. Twelve A-20s strike Sagan airfield with 8
tons of parafrags while 24 P-38s split up to bomb Doom I.
and airfields at Jefman and Samate.

Bismarcks-Solomons In Rabaul area, supply dumps fired and
gun emplacements hit by 27 B-25s, 20 F4Us, and 18 SBDs; motor
park attacked by 14 F4Us. Twelve SBDs, 6 F4Us, and 4
Venturas fire buildings in New Ireland. Targets of oppor-
tunity on Bougainville raided by 12 F4Us.

During month, SWPA aircraft make 13,044 sorties,
dropping 9,232 tons of bombs; in addition to damage and
destruction caused to land targets, reported enemy shipping
losses include: 30 AKs, 1 AM, 2 AOs, and 137 small craft,
totalling 52,870 tons, sunk; 21,340 tons probably sunk;
110,030 tons damaged. Statistics for submarines of the 7th
Fleet (including British and Netherlands SSs assigned to
7th Fleet) during month reported as 29 Japanese ships sunk
and 18 damaged.

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VIII: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

- 1 U.S.-Great Britain: American Foreign Economic Administration takes over functions of the British-American Combined Agency for Middle East Supplies.
France: Gen. Charles de Gaulle declares himself in favor of a planned economy for France, involving extensive nationalization.
- 2 United Nations: It is announced that China has submitted to the world security conference in Washington a peace plan providing for use of force to maintain order and the creation of six international commissions to deal with economic, social, territorial, law codification, labor, and cultural problems.
Yugoslavia: The Yugoslav Committee of National Liberation declines to accept proffered UNRRA aid unless Yugoslav organizations control its distribution.
Poland: Polish patriot forces in Warsaw surrender to Germans after 63 days of fighting; their commander in chief, Lt. Gen. Tadeusz Komorowski (General Bor), is taken prisoner.
- 4 Germany: An order issued jointly by the Chief of the High Command of the Armed Forces and the head of the Party Chancery decrees that uniformed members of the Party or its affiliated organizations and members of the Wehrmacht must exchange the Hitler salute.
Finland: Supreme executive authority in North Finland is assumed by Col. Gen. Rendulic, Comdr in Chief of German troops in that area.
Yugoslavia: In eastern Serbia Soviet forces capture Bor mines, important source of copper to Germany.
- 5 United Nations: The Chinese delegation approves the world security plan drafted by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union at the Dumbarton Oaks conference.
Estonian S.S.R.: Government spokesman tells foreign correspondents that the Soviet Estonian Government does not intend to compel collectivization of farming, but that it expects to nationalize all industries employing more than 10 persons.
- 6 U.S.-China: In reply to Chinese complaint that American aid is inadequate, the U.S. War Department reveals that more

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944Section VIII: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

than 20,000 tons of supplies a month are moving to China over a difficult air route.

Netherlands: Prime Minister Pieter S. Gerbrandy says in London that his country faces disastrous flood and famine conditions and charges that the Germans are striving "to make it as difficult as possible for Holland to re-establish herself as a modern nation."

Belgium: The government announces that deflationary measures will be effected at once to correct the inflation resulting from the German occupation.

- 7 U.S.: Wendell L. Willkie, 52, Republican presidential candidate in 1940, dies of coronary thrombosis.

Germany: Curtailment of NSDAP activities is announced by Reichsleiter Martin Bormann. Only Nazi Party business directly contributing to the war effort will continue to be transacted.

Russia: Izvestia announces that the government has set up a vast system of all-weather air bases extending from the island of Sakhalin through Siberia.

- 8 Egypt: Outcome of pan-Arab conference in Alexandria is the signing by representatives of Syria, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt of a protocol providing for creation of an Arab League for common action on political questions. Support is pledged to Arabs in Palestine and to Lebanese independence.

- 9 Great Britain-Russia-U.S.: Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden arrive in Moscow for conferences with Stalin and Foreign Commissar Molotov. President Roosevelt is represented at the talks by Ambassador Harriman.

Egypt: Minor public disturbances mark installation of new coalition cabinet following the King's dismissal of Premier Mustafa Nahas Pasha.

- 10 U.S.-Great Britain-Germany: The U.S. and British governments again warn the Germans against carrying out reported plans for exterminating thousands of Poles.

Cuba: Dr. Ramon Grau San Martin, physician and university professor, is sworn in as president, succeeding F. Batista. He pledges rule by the people and a reform program to raise their standard of living.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VIII: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

Bulgaria: Bulgaria accepts Allied pre-armistice terms requiring evacuation of all Bulgarian troops and officials from Greece and Yugoslavia within 15 days.

11 U.S.-Spain: It is announced in Washington that the Foreign Economic Administration's preclusive buying program in Spain is being terminated because Germany no longer has access to Spanish products.

Portugal-Great Britain: The British House of Commons is told that the Portuguese Government has stated that it will not, by granting asylum in its territory, permit war criminals to escape the decision of national or international tribunals competent to try them.

12 France: Minister for Colonies Rene Plevin reveals that the government is formulating a colonial program of a federal nature.

Poland: Premier Stanislaw Mikolajczyk of the exiled Polish government in London arrives in Moscow to join the Churchill-Stalin conference in an attempt to settle the Polish political dispute. Representatives of the Lublin Polish group, headed by Edouard Osobka-Morawski, chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, have already arrived.

Russia: Three-year blackout of city of Leningrad ends.

13 Denmark: State of siege in effect in Copenhagen since 19 Sept is lifted.

14 Sweden: The government announces cessation of shipments of ball bearings to Germany.

15 Hungary: Fascists led by Ferenc Szalasi, head of the Arrow Cross organization, seize power in Budapest a few hours after Regent Horthy announces that he has asked the Allies for an armistice.

16 Germany: The public is told that the decoration awarded for achievements in construction of border fortifications in 1939 will be reissued and awarded to all persons of German

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VIII: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

blood who render similar service in 1944.

Rumania-Russia: U.S. representative reports that a Rumanian fleet, manned by Soviet crews, has left Constanza for Sevastopol.

17 Argentina: The Argentine Government decrees closing of the German language newspaper Deutsche La Plata Zeitung, the Italian daily Il Mattino d'Italia, and "other foreign publications of the same nature."

18 Great Britain-Russia-U.S.: Moscow talks are concluded, progress having been made toward settlement of Polish issue and in coordinating military and political policy in the Balkans.

Great Britain: Trades Union Congress adopts Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee thesis that the German people bear some guilt for the crimes committed by their leaders.

Germany: Hitler decrees a home army called the German Volkssturm to be composed of all males between 16 and 60 years of age not already engaged in military activity. Minister of Interior Himmler, Reichsfuehrer SS and Comdr in Chief of the Replacement Army, is in military charge of the new formation.

Italy: Allied Control Commission changes name to "Allied Commission."

Finland-Russia: A Finland-Soviet Russia Association is organized with former Premier Juho K. Paasikivi as honorary president.

19 Philippine Islands: Sergio Osmena, President of the Philippine Commonwealth, and members of his government land with the American forces on Leyte Island.

Italy: Critical food shortage causes widespread unrest; public demonstrations and riots occur in Florence, Palermo, and other cities.

Finland-Russia-Canada: The Soviet Government announces that it has agreed to pay \$20,000,000 to the International Nickel Company of Canada for its lease of nickel mines in the vicinity of Petsamo.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

361

Oct
1944

Section VIII: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

- 20 Guatemala: Yielding to a revolt staged by young Army officers and students, President Gen. Federico Ponce hands the government over to a junta of two Army officers and one civilian.
- France: Creation of a new military zone places most of country under exclusive authority of the French Government. The Allied Comdr in Chief controls only the territory north and east of a line running from Boulogne to Ardennes, thence east of Nancy to the Rhone and down the Rhone to Marseilles.
- Hungary: Government decree establishing martial law appears in the official gazette.
- 21 El Salvador: Pro-Fascist Col. Aguirre, Director General of National Police, emerges from the Salvadorian coup d'etat as President of the country and Comdr in Chief of the Army.
- Hungary: According to a German news agency report, Admiral Nicholas Horthy, former Regent, and his family are "enjoying the right of asylum" somewhere in the Reich.
- 22 Albania: General Hoxha, leader of the Albanian National Committee of Liberation and C-in-C of the Albanian Army of Liberation, becomes Prime Minister of a provisional government composed of the anti-Fascist National Liberation Committee.
- 23 France: The French Provisional Government of Gen. Charles de Gaulle is accorded official recognition by the U.S., the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Peru, and Venezuela.
- 24 U.S.: OPA announces improvement in the fuel oil stock situation.
- Hawaii: Martial law is ended and the privilege of habeas corpus restored.
- France: China, Haiti, New Zealand, and Nicaragua give official recognition to the de Gaulle regime.
- Hungary: Announcement is made of a recent decree in which the new Minister of Interior declares the Arrow Cross Party-Hungarist Movement to be the only political group representing the will of the nation. Activity by other parties is forbidden.
- Greece: A new cabinet is formed under Premier George Papandreou, who will hold the war and foreign affairs portfolios.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct
1944

Section VIII: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

- 25 Italy: Diplomatic relations with Italy are resumed by Great Britain, the United States, and several of the Latin American nations.
- 26 Albania: The Tirana Government of Bicaku resigns and the Regency Council is abolished. In northern Albania, a pro-Nazi National Committee is reported set up in Scutari by Father Harapi, former member of the Regency Council.
- Greece-Great Britain: Communist leaders Talaganis and Siantos pledge Communist and EAM support to the Greek alliance with Great Britain.
- 27 Iran-U.S.S.R.: Following refusal of the Iranian Government to grant oil concessions to the Soviet Union, thousands of persons demonstrate in Teheran against the government of Premier Said.
- Japan: It is reported in the German press that the Greater East Asian Ministry has announced that Japanese civilians who voluntarily take up arms in the present theaters of military operations in the south will be designated as "Civilians attached to the Armed Forces."
- 28 U.S.-China: The White House announces that General Joseph W. Stilwell has been recalled from his command of CBI theater, which becomes two theaters under separate commanders. Maj. Gen. A.C. Wedemeyer is named commander of U.S. forces in the China theater and Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek; Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Sultan is given command of all U.S. troops in the Burma-India theater. It is also reported that Clarence E. Gauss, U.S. Ambassador to China, has resigned.
- Bulgaria: Terms of the armistice signed on this date with the United Nations require Bulgaria to relinquish portions of Greece and Yugoslavia acquired in 1941, supply foodstuffs to the peoples of Greek and Yugoslav territories occupied by Bulgaria, and make certain reparations yet to be determined. They also place Bulgar armed forces at the disposal of the Soviet High Command and provide for Allied supervision of publications, motion pictures, etc..
- Saudi Arabia: King Ibn Saud declares that the Jews are dangerous and hostile to both Saudi Arabia and the United States and that he will defend the Moslems where the Jews encroach on them.

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

363

Oct
1944

Section VIII: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

- 29 France-Spain: Several regiments of French North African troops have been dispatched to the Pyrenees border to stop the forays of Spanish Maquis from southern France into Spain.
 Russia: Moscow radio announces that Russia will not take part in the international conference on civil aviation at Chicago because of the presence of Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain.
- 30 U.S.: State Department and Foreign Economic Administration announce decision to send a mission to Liberia to establish strategic bases and to stimulate production of rubber and war materials.
 France: The Cabinet orders dissolution of the "Patriotic Guard" and the disarming of all save regular army and police.
- 31 Great Britain: Prime Minister Churchill requests extension of the present Parliament for another year.
 France-Switzerland: Switzerland recognizes the de Gaulle government of France.
 Rumania-Japan: The Rumanian Government breaks off relations with Japan.
 China: It is reported that Communist leader Lin Tso-han has sent a letter to representatives of the Kuomintang party in Chungking calling for dissolution of one-party dictatorship and establishment of a coalition government to effect unity against the Japanese.

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]