Operational History of The Seventh Air Force
6 Nov '43 - 31 July '44
FOREWORD

This study, which was completed in February 1945 by the Historical Division, Directorate of Intelligence, Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, has been reproduced, by the Historical Office, Headquarters Army Air Forces, without modifications other than stylistic changes necessary to bring it into conformity with practices adopted in AAF Historical Studies. Certain exhibits originally appended have been omitted in this version but have been listed in the Bibliography and may be consulted in the AAF Historical Office files.

The study has been read and approved by Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., Commanding General, Seventh Air Force.

The operations covered are those of the Seventh Air Force from the beginning of the campaign in the Gilberts in November 1943 to the establishment of Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas on 1 August 1944. Prior to November 1943 the Seventh Air Force had been largely a holding force for the defense of the Hawaiian Islands. In that month, however, it assumed the offensive and during the period in question furnished an important number of the land-based aircraft utilized in the westward sweep of our land, sea, and air forces from the Gilberts to the Marianas.

Like other AAF Historical Studies which have been produced, this is to be considered as a first narrative and is subject to revision as additional information becomes available. This particular narrative is based exclusively on materials available in files of the Seventh Air Force.
PLACE NAMES
CENTRAL PACIFIC OPERATIONS

Pacific Ocean

MARIANAS
VOLCANOES

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION

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Operational History of the Seventh Air Force

6 November 1943 to 31 July 1944
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>13</td>
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Chapter I
THE GILBERTS

In November 1943, United States forces assumed the offensive in the Central Pacific. Prior to this time, they had of necessity limited their activity to defensive operations, broken by an occasional foray into enemy territory. During this period, however, there had also been a marshaling of strength in preparation for the sustained offensive that was to come.

The first objective in this offensive was the seizure and occupation of the Japanese-held islands of Tarawa, Makin, and Aparama in the Gilberts, some 2,000 miles south and west of Cebu. For this operation, known by the code name GALWANTIC, a formidable array of sea, land, and air power was assembled under the command of Vice Adm. R. A. Spruance, Commander of the Central Pacific Force (COMCENPAC), United States Pacific Fleet. All shore-based aircraft committed to the operation were placed under the command of Rear Adm. J. H. Hoover (Task Force 57). The Seventh Air Force was to provide Admiral Hoover with both heavy bombardment and fighter aircraft. The heavy bombers were to be organized as a striking group (Task Group 57.2) under the command of Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force; the fighters were to be a part of the Ellice Defense and Utility Group (Task Group 57.4), under the command of Brig. Gen. L. G. Merritt, USMC.3

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The primary mission of the Seventh Air Force during GALVANIC was to attack enemy air bases at Tarawa, Makin, Mille, Maloelap, Jaluit, and Nauru in order to deny their use by enemy aircraft. In addition, the Seventh Air Force was to assist in the defense of friendly bases, perform search and photographic reconnaissance missions in the Gilbert-Marshall area and approaches thereto, and provide air transport between bases. These operations were assigned to the VII Bomber Command, VII Fighter Command, and the 19th Troop Carrier Squadron. The VII Air Force Service Command was to provide necessary service and administrative facilities at the bases in the Phoenix and Ellice islands.

These bases were located at Canton, Funafuti, Nukufetau, Nanumea, and Baker, of which only the first two had been developed prior to the GALVANIC operation. Canton, largest and most northerly of the Phoenix group, had held an air base since before the war, and had long been an important stop-over on the air route from Hawaii "down under". It had also served as a staging base for the earlier Seventh Air Force operations against the Gilberts. On its narrow strip of land—100 to 500 yards wide—was an airfield consisting of two runways, 9,400 and 7,200 feet long. These guano and compacted coral-rolled strips were able to provide accommodation for all types of aircraft at all times.

Funafuti, like Canton, had served both as a stop-over on flights to the Southwest Pacific and as a staging base for operations against the Gilberts. It, however, provided but one crushed-coral runway, 6,660 feet long and 300 feet wide, cut out of the thick coconut growth that covered the island.

On the other three islands there was nothing, and before they...
could be utilized to mount a land-based air attack, it was necessary for Seventh Air Force aviation engineers to move in and how air strips out of the dense covering of coconut palms. At Nukufetau and Nanomea, 6,000-foot bomber strips were constructed, as were fighter strips, 2,850 feet long at Nukufetau and 3,000 feet long at Nanomea. Both were of compacted coral.  

At Baker Island one runway was constructed, 5,500 x 150 feet, and covered with Marston mat.  

Just as bases had to be constructed before the air attack on the Gilberts could be launched, it was necessary also for the Seventh Air Force to obtain from outside sources part of the aircraft with which to do the job. In preparation for GALVANIC, the Seventh's meager bombardment strength—consisting only of the four squadrons of the veteran 11th Bomb Group (H)—was augmented in October 1943 by the arrival of one heavy bombardment group (the 30th) and one medium bombardment group (the 41st).  

By early November the forward bases were prepared sufficiently to admit of use, albeit under primitive and trying conditions, and the tactical organizations were assembled on Oahu in readiness for movement into the Ellice and Phoenix islands. On 6 November, Advanced Headquarters (ADVON) of the Seventh Air Force was established at Funafuti.  

General Hale had the following staff officers with him at ADVON: Col. Lawrence J. Carr, Chief of Staff; Col. Russell L. Waldron, A-2; Lt. Col. Ladson G. Sardridge, A-3; and Col. R. J. Erickson, Adjutant General. In addition to ADVON Seventh Air Force, the VII Air Force Service Command, under Brig. Gen. W. J. Reed, and the VII Bomber Command,
under Brig. Gen. Truman H. Landon, established their forward echelons at Funafuti. The aircraft tender Curtiss, Rear Adm. Hoover's headquarters, was anchored in Funafuti harbor. Direct communications were maintained between the Curtiss and ARON by telephone, teletype, and FM radio. The units of the Seventh Air Force were disposed as follows.\textsuperscript{12}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters 11th Bomb Group</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/2d Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131st Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nukufetau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nukufetau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nukufetau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters 30th Bomb Group</td>
<td>Nanomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nanomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>392d Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46th Fighter Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45th Fighter Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st ASSRON</td>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d ASSRON</td>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detachment 3d ASSRON</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detachment 3d ASSRON</td>
<td>Nanomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detachment 17th Air Base Squadron</td>
<td>Nukufetau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>422d Subdepot</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Seventh Air Force, then, had moved its advanced headquarters 2,244 nautical miles south and west of Cahu. Its units were scattered over five islands, occupying an area stretching approximately 460 miles from Funafuti on the south to Baker on the north, and approximately 740 miles from Canton on the east to Nanomea on the west.

The targets in the Gilberts and Marshalls, to be struck from these bases in the Ellice and Phoenix islands, ranged in distance from the 700 nautical miles separating Funafuti and Tarawa to the 1,418 nautical miles between Canton and Kwajalein.

The most important of these targets was Tarawa, in the Gilberts, a triangular-shaped atoll composed of a series of islands on a reef about
22 miles long, and enclosing a lagoon about 17 miles long by nine wide at the south end, and less than a mile at the north. The largest island of the group, Eititu (Betio), at the southwest corner, is a narrow strip of land approximately two and one-fourth miles long east-west, and less than a half mile wide. It is entirely flat, with an altitude of no more than 10 feet, and originally was covered with trees, shrubs, pandanus, and coconut palms. The Japanese had first landed on the atoll on 10 December 1941, but actual occupation had been delayed until 3 September 1942 when Tarawa was placed under the administration of the Marshall Islands group. The Japanese had developed their main air base in the Gilberts at Tarawa. This base, consisting of two hard-rolled coral runways, could serve defensively as a reconnaissance base to screen larger enemy concentrations in the Marshall Islands, or offensively as an advance base for operations against United Nations positions in the South Pacific.\(^\text{13}\) Tarawa had been heavily hit by a combined Army-Navy raid in September 1943,\(^\text{14}\) but naval air reconnaissance showed that the enemy had rebuilt the island to its original strength, plus additional defenses.\(^\text{15}\)

The islands which were to be occupied during GALVANIC, in addition to Tarawa, were Apanama and Makin. No serious resistance was expected at Apanama.\(^\text{16}\) At Makin, however, there was evidence that since the Marine raid of 16-18 August 1942, when the small enemy garrison had been virtually annihilated, the Japanese had prepared defensive installations and were conducting patrol operations from the seaplane base located there.\(^\text{17}\)

From the point ofalistical view, however, probably
the most important enemy bases in the Gilberts and the Marshalls were not those which were to be occupied, but those which supported airfields from which the enemy might conduct attacks against the landing forces. These, briefly, were as follows:

Jaluit—This atoll, the best known of the Marshall group, was the site of a large seaplane base, the center for Japanese air and surface patrols in the southwestern Marshalls, the submarine base for the area, and an important supply base.

Kille—An important air base, consisting of two runways, dispersal areas, hangars, barracks, and a strong antiaircraft and ground defensive system, Kille formed the southern anchor of the Eastern Marshalls Defense Zone. Its air strength could be rapidly reinforced from nearby fields, four of which were within a radius of 300 miles.

Molokai—This atoll, formed by more than 60 low islands along a reef about 32 miles long, with a maximum width of about 13 miles, was the site of a particularly well-developed air base, located on Tafa, and equipped to handle all types of Japanese land-based aircraft. Centrally located on the rim of the Marshall Island outposts, it was believed to be the most important base in the entire area, next to Roi Island, Kwajalein.

Nauru—This island, although isolated geographically, is strategically linked with the Gilberts. From its newly-constructed airfield, the Japs were able to patrol completely the area between the Gilbert and the Solomon islands. Searches from Nauru greatly strengthened the Japanese mandated islands against the possibility of surprise attacks from the south. In addition to its air installations, Nauru possessed the largest phosphate refineries in the Pacific.

In addition to the targets mentioned above, there was Kwajalein atoll, the most important Japanese military and naval base in the Marshall Islands. There was a major air base on Roi Island, and one under construction on Kwajalein Island. A well-equipped seaplane base was located on Ebeye Island. There were large concentrations of military stores of all categories on Kwajalein, Nauru, and Bileq islands. Although Kwajalein did not become a primary target,
campaign, the possibility of reinforcement of Japanese positions in the lower Marshalls and the Gilberts from there was considered in the planning for GALVANIC. 23

At this writing, there is not available an estimate of the air strength to be expected in defense of the above-mentioned targets. There is available, however, an estimate of the enemy air order of battle dated 18 November 1943, five days after operations had begun. It follows: 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>VF</th>
<th>VB</th>
<th>VB(M)</th>
<th>VP</th>
<th>V50</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarawa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makin</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaluit</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetje</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maloelap</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwajalein</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eniwetok</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Seventh Air Force's original plan for carrying out its assigned mission of denying the enemy the use of his airfields called for the following strikes by the aircraft of the VII Bomber Command: 25

- D-5 day - Jaluit and Mille
- D-4 day - Kwajalein and Maloelap
- D-3 day - Wetje and Maloelap
- D-2 day - Kwajalein and Notje
- D-1 day - Makin and Tarawa

The VII Bomber Command also was to operate dive bombers in defense of Canton, conduct search missions from Canton from D-5 to D-2, inclusive, and perform such additional search, photographic, and strike missions as were directed. The attacks on Makin and Tarawa were to help prepare the way for assault troops. Maximum damage was to be inflicted on defense.
installations, and minimum damage on those installations whose destruction was not required for the capture of the bases. Enemy shipping of all types was to be a priority target on all missions.26

Although the general instructions remained constant, the actual order of attack was changed twice during the course of the pre-invasion campaign. The first of these changes stepped up the initial operation from D-5 to D-7 and provided the following schedule:27

D-7 day - Tarawa
D-6 day - Tarawa and Mille
D-5 day - Tarawa and Mille
D-4 day - Jaluit and Kwajalein
D-3 day - Tarawa and Mille or Maloelap
(Kwajalein if not attacked on D-4)
D-2 day - None
D-1 day - Mokil

The second change, occurring the day after operations had started, provided the following schedule for the remaining six days:28

D-6 day - Mille and Tarawa
D-5 day - Jaluit and Mille
D-4 day - Kwajalein and Maloelap
D-3 day - Jaluit and Maloelap
D-2 day - Wotje
D-1 day - Tarawa and Mokil

The air attack began on 13 November 1943 (D-7) when 18 B-24's of the 11th Bomb Group took off from Puna Point to attack Tarawa. They dropped 126 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters, and 55 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 and 15,000 feet respectively. Returning to Puna Point, the crews observed fires burning for 60 miles at 15,000 feet. One airplane did not return, cause unknown.29

During the entire week the Liberators carried out their assigned mission. The only deviations occurred on 17 November (D-3) when Tarawa and Mille were bombed instead of Jaluit,30 and on 18 November when bad weather conditions forced the bombers headed for Wotje to return.
loads on Niles and Tarawa. 31

The conditions under which the heavy bombers operated were far from satisfactory. Facilities at the hastily constructed forward bases for both the servicing and maintenance of the airplanes and the comfort of the combat crews were primitive and often inadequate. Enemy aircraft contributed to the difficulties of both air and ground crews by raiding Nanomea on the night of 11 November, and Funafuti on 13 November and 17 November. 32

The remoteness of enemy targets from the widely dispersed operating bases required flights over some of the greatest distances attempted in the war. The distance flown from home bases to objectives, and return, varied from 926 nautical miles to 2,408 nautical miles. 33 All flights traversed great water distances with no intermediate landmarks. Both the objectives and the home bases consisted of small land masses, the reaching of which required the most accurate navigation. Two operational problems that gave considerable trouble were weather and communications. 34 Weather reports were unsatisfactory in that they were generally too brief and below standard accuracy. The VII Bomber Command felt that the cause for both unsatisfactory conditions was the lack of wide and efficient dissemination of weather information and the fact that Navy forecasts, which predominated, were too brief. 35 Communications at Funafuti appeared to be generally unsatisfactory—the tower used unpublished transmission frequencies, and the erratic and unstable operation of the range and homing stations made them unreliable as aids to navigation. 36

Tactically, the Liberators met opposition every time they went out.
There was antiaircraft, varying in intensity and accuracy, over every target; and over Kwajalein, Jaluit, and Maloelap intercepting fighters were up to meet the bombers.\(^{37}\)

When the Marines stormed ashore at Tarawa on 20 November, the Seventh Air Force heavy bombers had completed 13 strike missions for a total of 141 sorties. They had dropped 375 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 455 x 100-lb. GP bombs, and 5,634 x 20-lb. fragmentation bombs, in addition to firing 12,736 rounds of .50-cal., and 200 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. They had destroyed five enemy aircraft, probably destroyed five others, and damaged two. Two B-24's had been lost in combat, two had been lost operationally, two had been destroyed on the ground, and one had been lost at sea, cause unknown. Personnel losses included six dead, 19 wounded, and 11 missing.\(^{38}\)

An indication of the relative effort exerted against the various targets are the following figures on short tons of bombs dropped during the month of November:\(^{39}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Tons of Bombs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gilberts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarawa</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makin</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshalls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaluit</td>
<td>61.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maloelap</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enemy Shipping</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>299.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any attempt to assess the effectiveness of the work of the Seventh Air Force in this operation, as in its other operations, is complicated...
by the fact that the aerial strength of the Navy also was operating against the same targets. Then, too, an exact determination of the effect of any aerial bombardment is open to serious question. A frequently used means of determining results has been the number of bombs placed on the target, or the percentage of bombs dropped that hit the target. On this basis, it was estimated that the B-24's were 73 percent effective.\(^{40}\) It has been pointed out, however, that such a standard of performance may be misleading because it actually gives no indication of the extent to which effective installations have been destroyed.\(^{41}\) Prior to H-hour and D-day, Tarawa had been subjected to a terrific naval and aerial bombardment, yet the Japs were able to resist fanatically in their coconut-log dugouts for 72 bitter, bloody hours.

In connection with the task of denying the enemy the use of his airfields, the Army Air Forces Evaluation Board in the Pacific Ocean Areas, headed by Brig. Gen. Martin F. Scanlon, USA, has pointed out that neutralization could not possibly be maintained with the small force of B-24's which, because of the long distances from the most advanced staging bases to the targets, were the only airplanes available which were effective in this job.\(^{42}\) It was further pointed out that it was such a matter of hours to repair runways as the Japs used, to rebuild their light frame buildings, and to fly replacement aircraft down through the chain of mandated islands. For this reason, attacks would have had to have been made almost daily to maintain complete neutralization. Under the conditions of distance and force available this was impossible.\(^{43}\)

In summarizing the effect of air attacks prior to the invasion of
Up to the time when assault and occupation of the islands began, complete neutralization of the air facilities of these islands had not been accomplished. Certain Jap-held runways had been kept serviceable, stores of all sorts remained intact, and airplanes were still present. The actual guarantee of protection against enemy air interference was brought about by carrier-borne fighters and bombers of the Naval task force accompanying the expedition. Airplanes of this type that participated in the operation may have numbered as many as four hundred dive and torpedo bombers and five hundred fighters. In view of the prior hindrance to the Jap air effort by the meager but persistent work of the B-24s, this pre-invasion force was quite sufficient to eliminate all hostile air activity in the Gilberts and prevent any reinforcement through the Marshalls. This done, the carrier groups proceeded to render such close support to the assault troops as was requested.
Chapter II
THE MARSHALLS

So far as air operations were concerned, the campaigns in the Gilberts and the Marshalls were continuous. On 21 November 1943 (D plus 1), B-24's of the 38th Bomb Squadron escorted Navy PB4Y photo planes over Nauru, while Liberators of the 431st and 42d Bomb Squadrons conducted daylight raids on the same target. During the remainder of November and most of December, Seventh Air Force Liberators continued to pound Nauru, Hille, Jaluit, and Maloelap from their bases at Canton and in the Ellices, staging through Baker and Nanumea. Beginning 10 December, a new target—Wotje—came under the sights of the B-24's. Wotje, base of a strongly-fortified and well-defended airfield and extensive seaplane servicing facilities, was another of the Japanese strong points that was to be reduced to ineffectiveness by air attack.

Meanwhile, Seabees and Seventh Air Force aviation engineers were laboring long and hard to prepare the newly-won positions in the Gilberts for use. Air strips were cut out of the coconut groves at Apanama and Makin; and amidst the rubble at Tarawa, the existing airfield was lengthened and improved, and another was constructed. So rapidly did they accomplish their tasks that within a month after the bases had been captured, tactical units had begun to use them against the Japanese. The B-25's of the 41st Bomb Group (M), which had been in Oahu since

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October, were brought to Tarawa and Apanama. The 44th Fighter Squadron, whose P-39's had been kept at Canton for defensive purposes during the Gilberts campaign, was reinforced with new airplanes from Oahu and moved to Makin during the period 14-27 December. Another P-39 organization, the 72d Fighter Squadron, was brought to Makin from Oahu, the pilots and airplanes arriving aboard a carrier on 14 December, and the ground echelon on 18 December 1943. The P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron, which had been at Baker during the conquest of the Gilberts, were moved to Nanomea on 28 November and in January divided into a rear echelon stationed at Apanama and a forward echelon at Makin. Finally, the 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, equipped with A-20's, was assembled on Makin from Oahu and Canton on 22 December 1943.

B-24's first used bases in the Gilberts on 23 December, when Liberators of the 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa to escort Navy photo planes over Kwajalein. Tarawa was used as a staging base until early in January, when Headquarters 11th Bomb Group, and the 26th, 98th, and 431st Bomb Squadrons were located there. The 42d Bomb Squadron was sent from Funafuti to Oahu, where it was to augment the 819th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group, as the heavy bombardment force available for the defense of the Hawaiian Islands. Also in early January, Headquarters 30th Bomb Group was moved from Nanomea to Apanama, the ground echelon arriving on 4 January and the air echelon on 5 January, and the 392d Bomb Squadron was moved from Canton to Apanama, with the ground echelon arriving on 10 January and the air echelon on 19 January. The 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons remained at Nanomea.

To complete the move of the 3rd Force to the Gilbert Islands,
ADVON, together with the forward echelons of the VII Bomber Command and the VII Air Service Command, was moved from Pumafuti to Tarawa during the last week of December 1943 and the first week of January 1944.\(^{15}\)

The establishment of its headquarters and tactical units in the Gilbert Islands placed the Seventh Air Force in a position where it could most advantageously carry out its part in the conquest of key Japanese positions in the Marshall Islands. The first phase of this operation, known under the code name FLINTLOCK, was the seizure and occupation of Kwajalein and Majuro atolls; the second phase, known as CATCHPOLE, was the conquest and occupation of Eniwetok, westernmost island of the Marshalls. Originally, these were planned as two separate operations, but because of the comparative ease with which Kwajalein and Majuro were secured, it was decided to alter existing plans and proceed with the CATCHPOLE operation immediately upon the completion of FLINTLOCK.\(^{16}\) For this reason, and because the operations of the Seventh Air Force were continuous, the two operations will be discussed together.

In these operations, Seventh Air Force units continued to operate as they had in the conquest of the Gilberts, as part of Task Force 57 under Rear Adm. Hoover, which in turn was part of a mammoth sea, land, and air force under the direction of CINCPAC, Admiral Spruance.\(^{17}\) General Hale was designated Strike Commander (Task Group 57.2), and was to have all Army aircraft under his command, in addition to WNF 532, a Navy night fighter squadron. This was a change from GALVANIC, in that in the earlier operation Army fighters had been used only for defensive purposes, and were under Marine command.\(^{18}\)
In general, the mission of the Seventh Air Force in the conquest of the Marshalls remained the same as it had been in the Gilberts operation, i.e., search and reconnaissance, and the performance of striking force missions to deny the enemy the use of his bases and to destroy his shipping. Specifically, the mission in FLINTLOCK was outlined as follows:

(1) deny the enemy the use of his air bases at Wille and Jaluit before D minus 2 day, and maintain the neutralization of those bases thereafter;

(2) destroy enemy aircraft and air facilities at Roi, Nettie, and Taroa Islands, and at Kwajalein Island if the field there was operational until and including D minus 3 day;

(3) furnish air support at Kwajalein Island on D-day as requested by Commander Joint Expeditionary Force;

(4) on D minus 2 day and thereafter, assist other forces engaged in denying Nettie and Taroa to the enemy as air bases;

(5) deny the use of Kusaie and Nauru to the enemy as air bases for aircraft which could substantially interfere with FLINTLOCK operations;

(6) defend our bases in the Ellice and Gilbert Islands;

(7) attack enemy ships and shipping.

During the CATCHPOLE phase of the operation the Seventh Air Force was to continue its neutralization of the Marshalls, and, in addition, to maintain the neutralization of enemy air facilities at Ponape and Wake in coordination with strikes from Midway, as directed by Commander in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC). Actually, all attacks on Wake during this period were by naval aircraft based at Midway.

A primary difference between the operations in the Gilberts and the Marshalls was the increased air strength which could be brought to bear in the latter as the result of the establishment of bases in the
Gilberts, and the augmentation of Seventh Air Force units in the forward area. The B-24's no longer had to assume responsibility for all of the targets. Those at closer range could be turned over in part to the B-25's, the A-24's, and the fighters. Moreover, as B-24 missions were reduced somewhat in length, the Liberators could carry full bomb loads, and operate more frequently, with less fatigue for their crews. 22

During the campaign in the Gilberts, B-24's had been operated against Tarawa, Mille, Jaluit, Maloelap, Nauru, and Kwajalein. In every instance, with the exception of Tarawa which became a friendly base, and Nauru against which only 13 B-24 sorties were flown after November, they flew more sorties over these targets in December than they had in November, in addition to initiating the heavy bombing of Wotje. 23 The total number of sorties flown increased from 237 in November to 365 in December, and the average length of bombing sorties increased from 12.0 to 13.7 hours. 24 Mille was the target most frequently hit by the Liberators during the month, with Maloelap a close second. 25 During January, the total number of B-24 sorties flown decreased to 268, and the average length of each sortie decreased to 9.6 hours. 26 Kwajalein, which was being softened up for invasion, became the target most hit. Wotje again had the second greatest amount of B-24 effort expended against it. Maloelap, the third heaviest hit target during the month, saw more B-24's over it during January than it had in November, but less than in December. Mille and Jaluit were still hit occasionally by the heavies, but usually as alternate or last resort targets. 27

B-24's were used for nightly harassment of Kwajalein, Wotje, and
Valoelap during the period from D minus 3 to D-day on Kwajalein. In performing this mission they were over their targets from dusk to dawn in small elements, dropping 500-lb. delayed-fuse GP bombs. On 1 February 1944 (D-day on Kwajalein Island), they performed a unique mission for heavy bombers in this theater when they furnished ground support for the assault troops of the 7th Army Division. Assigned to the mission were 6 B-24's of the 392d Bomb Squadron, which dropped 2,000- and 1,000-lb. GP bombs from altitudes of 4,000 to 4,500 feet, and in addition strafed with .50-cal. machine guns. As they left the target, the northwest part of the island appeared to be on fire. None of the B-24's was damaged.

During February the B-24's flew 330 sorties, an increase of 62 over the previous month, and the average length of these sorties increased from 9.6 to 10.7 hours. The primary reason for the increase in average length of the bombing sorties was the inclusion of Ponape, for the first time among the targets hit by Seventh Air Force Liberators, in the performance of part of the Seventh's mission in the CATCHFOLE phase of the conquest of the Marshalls.

Ponape, in the eastern Carolines, was approximately 1,085 statute miles from the Seventh's primary forward base at Tarawa, and missions against it during this period averaged around 2,200 miles of non-stop over-water flying. The island is the largest in the mandated group. It had one medium-sized airfield, a second airfield under construction, and a well-established seaplane base. Its anchorage was suitable for six medium-sized and a number of small naval vessels, but not for a fleet base. It was moderately developed commercially.
first hit on 14 February, and during the month 121 B-24's were over the island.\footnote{33}

Another target hit for the first time in February, and also in connection with the Seventh's mission in CATCHFIRE, was Kusaie, struck initially on 17-18 February.\footnote{34} Kusaie, the easternmost island of the Carolines, is about 300 miles west of Ponape. Lele Harbor provided limited anchorage for medium-sized vessels and limited seaplane facilities.\footnote{35} Military activity there was of a minor nature, however, and while a few missions were scheduled against it, it usually served as an alternate target for missions against Ponape.\footnote{36}

The Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force called the reduction of Ponape and Kusaie in support of landing operations at Eniwetok, "the most interesting phase, and certainly the most important," of the CATCHFIRE operation.\footnote{37} In four raids against Ponape, during which approximately 140 tons of GP and incendiary bombs were dropped, the town was practically destroyed, and the seaplane-base pounded into unserviceability. The waterfront area on Kusaie, the principal target there, was also practically demolished by four raids. The airfield never became operational and was of little concern.\footnote{38}

In addition to bombing these two new targets, the B-24's continued during February to strike Woleai, Nenje, Milli, and Jaluit in about the same force as they had in January. Kwajalein, of course, was not bombed again after the ground support mission of 1 February.\footnote{39}

B-25's of the 41st Bomb Group (H) went into action for the first time in the Central Pacific on 28 December 1943 when nine of them from the 320th Bomb Squadron took off from Tarawa for an attack on Milli.\footnote{40}
The only other target attacked by medium aircraft during December was Jaluit, over which nine sorties were flown.\textsuperscript{41} During January and February, primary targets for the medium bombers were Makin and Wotje. Jaluit also continued to be hit, and in January six sorties were flown against Nauru.\textsuperscript{42} The total number of sorties flown by the B-25's increased from 18 in December to 215 in January, and dropped back to 175 in February. The average length of their bombing sorties was 4.2 hours in December, and 6.9 hours in January and February.\textsuperscript{43}

Carrying a 75-mm. cannon in their nose, in addition to a complement of .50-cal. machine guns, the B-25's specialized during the Marshalls campaign in low-level bombing, cannonading, and strafing attacks against both shipping and shore installations. Illustrative of the extremely low levels at which these attacks were launched was the mission of 14 January, which has become legendary in the annals of the Seventh Air Force. Three B-25's were dispatched from Bellinix Field, Tarawa, to attack a destroyer and other shipping seen in Wotje lagoon by crews of an earlier strike. One B-25 received major damage when it clipped the mast of a ship, embedding fragments in the engine nacelle and battering the engine, wing, bomb bay, and fuselage. The pilot managed to get the battered plane to Makin, and upon its arrival there a Japanese flag was found intact within the engine nacelle.\textsuperscript{44}

The low-level attacks gave the B-25's certain tactical advantages over aircraft using medium and high-level techniques: avoidance of radar detection, added precision in bombing, and ability to strafe their targets effectively with .50-cal. machine guns and 75-mm. cannon.\textsuperscript{45}

Yet they proved costly. The 11th Bomb Group lost a total of 17 B-25's.
between 28 December 1943 and 12 February 1944, and in addition suffered damage on 114 sorties. These figures include two B-25's shot down and five damaged when a flight returning from Wotje on 29 January was attacked by F6F's of the United States Navy. When, beginning 19 February, the B-25's switched to medium-altitude attacks, the number of aircraft destroyed and damaged was greatly reduced.

A-24's of the 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron started hitting Jap installations on Mille and Jaluit from Makin on 18 December 1943. The Dauntless dive bombers, usually armed with two 500-lb. GP bombs, flew 367 sorties against those two targets between 18 December and the invasion of Kwajalein. During the entire period of their operations in the Central Pacific (18 December 1943 to 10 March 1944), they flew 375 sorties over Mille and 150 over Jaluit, dropping 241 short tons of bombs over the former target, and 70.4 short tons over the latter. They expended a total of 61,630 rounds of .30-cal. and 29,810 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and on various occasions dropped propaganda leaflets upon the beleaguered Jap garrisons. Except for 41 unescorted sorties over Mille, the A-24's were accompanied on all missions by P-39's of the 45th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron, or F6F's of the United States Navy. Occasionally Navy SBD's, the equivalent of an Army A-24, flew with them.

The P-39's, in addition to furnishing escort for the A-24's, undertook a variety of striking and patrol missions. They made regular fighter sweeps over Mille, 220 miles from their base at Makin, and on 6 February, 12 P-39's made a successful fighter sweep over Jaluit, a distance of approximately 303 statute miles from Makin. During the landings on.
Kwajalein, the Airacobras carried out continuous armed patrols over Mille to deny the enemy the use of its airfield. In flights of four, they stayed over the atoll from dawn to dusk from 29 January 1944 to 1 February 1944. In this they were assisted by P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron.\(^5\) They also provided escort for crash boats and Navy FBO's in rescue operations, and on 1 January 1944, 16 P-39's of the 72d Fighter Squadron attacked and destroyed two small inter-island vessels off Mille.\(^6\) On 10 and 11 January, one P-39 on two different missions over Mille dropped two 500-lb. bombs. This was believed to be the first time that a P-39 had been utilized to carry such a bomb load, in addition to a 540-lb. belly tank, over 200 miles of water.\(^7\)

In addition to their striking missions, the P-39's flew 32 interception sorties over Makin and surrounding area.\(^8\) The P-39's total activity during the period of their operations from Makin (18 December 1943 to 12 February 1944) consisted of 635 sorties, plus 114 abortives, and expenditure of 46,712 rounds of .30-cal. and 1,771 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition.\(^9\)

The 45th Fighter Squadron conducted its first mission from Makin 16 January 1944 when eight P-40's took part in a raid on Mille with A-24's and P-39's. The Warhawks each carried two 500-lb. bombs, all of which hit the target. On the way out they were escorted by P-39's. After they had dropped their bombs they furnished part of the escort for the A-24's.\(^1\) During their operations in the Central Pacific, the P-40's, like the P-39's, were utilized on a variety of missions: escort, bombing, strafing, attacks on shipping, and combat patrol. In the performance of this last, they, with the P-39's, were over Mille during...
the entire days of 30 and 31 January 1944 to deny the enemy the use of its airfield during the invasion of Kwajalein. The 45th Fighter Squadron made several innovations in the use of its planes—the only type aircraft in use at the outbreak of the war and still flying in Seventh Air Force combat missions. On 26 January, 12 P-40's flew a distance of 800 miles, several miles beyond their normal range, to intercept a group of Zeke's attacking a force of B-25's.53 An attempt was made to increase the bomb load when on 5 February, 14 P-40's each carried two 1,000-lb. bombs over Jaluit. This was the heaviest bomb load ever carried in this theater by the P-40's, which in addition were equipped with 75-gallon belly tanks to get them over the 600-mile round trip.54 The same load was tried again on 7 February by 16 airplanes.55 Thus, it was learned that fighters could carry a heavier bomb load than could dive bombers, but it was also observed that their bombing was not as accurate.56 Pilots reported that the heavy 2,000-lb. loads adversely affected flying characteristics of the P-40 in high-speed dives.57 Still another innovation was attempted on 22 February, when a P-40 on a mission over Kille launched a rocket, although with unobserved results.58

During the period from 16 January to 11 March 1944, the Warhawks flew a total of 501 sorties, plus an additional 30 abortives. They dropped a total of 163,9 short tons of bombs on Kille and Jaluit, and expended 158,525 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition.59

As the tempo of attacks increased, so did enemy resistance, both on the ground and in the air. Antiaircraft fire increased in volume and in accuracy over what it had been in the Gilberts campaign. Jap
fighters was gradually appearing in larger numbers. During December 1943, interception occurred at Kwajalein, Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje. At Kwajalein there was interception only once in three missions, when on 21 December eight Zekes and one Tony intercepted eight B-24's. One Zeko was damaged, and none of the B-24's was hit. At Wotje, also, fighters came up only once: on 26 December when five or six Zekes intercepted a formation of 16 B-24's. In the fight that ensued, the enemy shot down two B-24's and damaged another, while losing only one Zeko with two others damaged.

Over Mille and Maloelap, the interception was much greater. B-24's encountered fighters in four missions out of seven over Mille. They ranged in number from 10 to 15 near the beginning of the month, to one on the 19th. They were identified as Zekes, Hamps, Tonys, and Oscars, and on 8 December were observed to employ aerial bombs. The Liberators destroyed five Zekes and one Tony, and the fighters were able to destroy one B-24 and damage 17. A-20's and P-39's also encountered from four to seven Zekes over Mille on three occasions. They destroyed three Zekes, probably destroyed another, and damaged one. None of the fighters or dive bombers was destroyed or damaged by enemy interceptors. After 23 December 1943 there was no further interception over Mille Atoll.

The greatest concentration of enemy fighters was at Maloelap, and during every mission over this target from 16 November 1943 to 2 January 1944, interception was encountered. These missions all were conducted by B-24’s. The number of fighters up to meet them grew from 12 to 15 to a high of 35 to 40, identified mostly as Zekes, although some Hamps and Oscars were reported. The Liberators managed to shoot down 54 of
the intercepting fighters, probably shoot down 61, and damage 55, although in doing it 11 of the heavy bombers were lost, and 60 were damaged.77 These losses occurred on daytime raids, and because of them, early in January the B-24's were switched to the less effective, but also less hazardous, night attacks.78

Malaelep was the only target over which interception continued into January 1944. The B-24's, operating at night, encountered no further interception. The B-25's, however, flying low-level, daylight attacks, continued to meet stiff interception over the target, with as many as 50 fighters being reported up to meet them. They met interception on every mission until 29 January. During the month, seven B-25's were shot down, and 48 were damaged. The low-flying Mitchells, however, were able to shoot down 24, probably shoot down 17, and damage 39, in addition to destroying a number of aircraft on the ground.79 The break in Jap fighter activity at Malaelep appears to have been broken on 26 January. On that date, nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, being pursued by 13 to 28 aggressive, experienced fighters, were met at a pre-arranged rendezvous over Mau by 12 P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron.80 This surprise attack accounted for at least 11 enemy fighters destroyed and two probably destroyed.81 No Seventh Air Force planes were lost, although eight B-25's were damaged, one of them seriously.82 On 28 January, a formation of seven B-25's was intercepted by five fighters.83 This was the last time that Japanese fighters were encountered over Malaelep, or any of the Marshall Islands.

With the air over the Marshalls completely controlled by U. S. forces, the enemy was limited, after January, to the use of antiaircraft
for the defense of his battered strongholds. During the early part of February, it was noted that the volume of antiaircraft in the central and eastern Marshalls, which hitherto had been described as generally intense, if inaccurate, became meager but much more accurate. It was first believed that this was due to a shortage of ammunition. Later in the month, however, when the fire again became intense at times, it was concluded that the enemy had been hoarding his ammunition against possible landing operations against him.84 There was a considerable increase in accuracy. This was attributed to two factors: 1) the fact that the enemy was getting more and more practical experience; and 2) his new antiaircraft techniques. He had learned that a screen of antiaircraft is not only wasteful, but that it rarely ever results in the destruction of aircraft; hence he was holding his fire until the planes came in for their bomb run, and then instead of throwing up a curtain of fire, concentrating all of his guns on one airplane at a time.85 Evidence that this was effective was the loss of three medium bombers, four dive bombers, and two fighters to antiaircraft.86

In addition to ground and air opposition at the targets, the Japs attempted to oppose our operations by attacks on our bases. During December and January Tarawa was raided 14 times, Makin 14 times, and Apanama twice. The fewest number of enemy aircraft participating in these raids was one; and the greatest, 15. The average number was between five and six.87 The enemy did considerable damage on these raids, but on the whole did not interfere appreciably with our operations. On 15 of the raids no damage was reported, but on others some hits were scored. Eight persons were killed, and 64 injured, including two.
natives who received slight injuries. Ten airplanes were damaged and at least two were destroyed. Other damage included one truck destroyed, a Seabee machine shop destroyed, and gasoline dumps fired twice. 88

The most serious damage resulted from the only time the enemy attempted to bomb our bases during February. On the 12th of the month, some 12 to 14 enemy planes made a night attack on our newly-acquired base at Roi Island, Kwajalein atoll. The attack was made from 20,000 feet, and most of the bombs fell in the lagoon, except for one hit in a bomb storage area containing 83 x 1,000-lb. bombs. The resulting explosion caused widespread damage, with 20 to 25 men reported killed, 130 wounded, 80 per cent of the supplies on the beachhead destroyed, and 20 per cent of the construction equipment damaged. Two LST's in the lagoon were struck and burned out. 89

Enemy opposition over the targets and raids upon their operating bases were probably the most important factors affecting Seventh Air Force operations during the period, but there were others, such as distance, flight conditions, and conditions at the bases from which operations were conducted.

The forward displacement of the bulk of the squadrons improved operating conditions to the extent that shorter flights to many of the targets permitted the carrying of full bomb loads. In actual practice, however, each type of plane often was pushed to the extent of its range, and sometimes beyond, in the effort to find targets for land-based aircraft in a theater composed almost entirely of water. Navigation, as always in the Pacific Ocean areas, was of the utmost importance, even for the fighter pilots with distances by comparison with
bombers but hardly short for fighter planes. As one Squadron 5-2 put it: "It is important that the pilots be on the ball on navigation. 214 miles over water with a single prop out in front is a long way and no sensible place to get lost ...."[90]

Weather, which had given considerable trouble during the GALVANIC operation, did not appear to be giving so much trouble during the campaign in the Marshalls. To be sure, there was always a weak to moderate front with two-tenths to ten-tenths coverage in the central and eastern Marshalls, but it caused little or no interference with operations since at least one of the principal targets was usually clear or partially clear.[92] The weather en route to Ponape and Kusaie was generally more difficult to forecast, and did cause some trouble. Flights got split and part of the planes bombed alternate targets on numerous occasions; and in some instances missions were cancelled because of adverse weather conditions. Ponape and Kusaie always had cloud cover during the day, and this condition made observation and photo reconnaissance difficult. However, there were no operational losses attributed to the weather during the period.[93]

Conditions under which the men of the Seventh Air Force lived and worked at their bases in the Gilberts were, as they had been in the Ellice Islands, primitive. There were flies and mosquitoes, the seemingly everlasting "C" rations, and for the ground crews, especially, the monotony of life that is contained within a tiny coral atoll. In addition, there were problems that had not been encountered in the Ellices. The fierce fighting and heavy bombardment—particularly at Tarawa—had left in their wake a mass of stripped and uprooted coconut
palms, block-houses smashed and burned, and filled with the heaped-up bodies of the decaying, stinking dead. Moreover, for days after the atoll had been declared secure, and even after Seventh Air Force planes were operating from its airfields, these dugouts, in addition to their unbearable stench, could often produce a number of fierce, fighting defenders who would charge or shoot anyone venturing near enough. In what was to be the pattern for mopping-up operations throughout the Pacific, these pockets of fanatical, last-ditch defenders had to be reduced one by one by dynamite, bulldozers, and flame throwers. 94

Yet, with the spirit displayed by the American soldier wherever he is stationed, the men of the Seventh Air Force adjusted themselves to conditions as they found them. The Historical Officer of VII Bomber Command wrote: 95

But even on coral atolls life can become more or less routine with the passing of time, and obstacles which seemed virtually insufferable at first are either eliminated or soon become every-day matters accepted as a part of daily life. As the islands were cleaned up, recreational activities became available; volleyball courts were improvised, baseball tournaments were organized, and most important of all, mail from home began to come in regularly.

And, as the S-2 of a Fighter Squadron put it: 96

The pilots are extremely eager and fight to be on the alert flights. Living conditions are primitive, chow is B, C and K ration, the flies are bad in the daytime, the mosquitoes bad at night. There is a certain amount of dysentery but everyone's morale is high.

As has been indicated above, any attempt to evaluate the operations of the Seventh Air Force is subject to numerous difficulties. 97

No effort will be made here to pass judgment. The most that is intended is a presentation of various judgments expressed.
As a means of indicating the relative effort exerted against the various targets, the following is a statement on the bomb tonnage dropped during the months from December 1943 through February 1944.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>Dec 43</th>
<th>Jan 44</th>
<th>Feb 44</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marshall's</td>
<td>126.1</td>
<td>192.3</td>
<td>233.2</td>
<td>551.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malelap</td>
<td>203.6</td>
<td>180.0</td>
<td>154.7</td>
<td>538.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wotje</td>
<td>151.5</td>
<td>214.6</td>
<td>261.3</td>
<td>627.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaluit</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>131.9</td>
<td>150.0</td>
<td>374.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kwajalein</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>200.2</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>315.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majuro</td>
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<td>Auro</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongelap</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arno</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekiep</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponape</td>
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<td></td>
<td>172.3</td>
<td>172.3</td>
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<td>Kusaie</td>
<td></td>
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<td>49.3</td>
<td>49.3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>25.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>597.6</td>
<td>962.2</td>
<td>1,148.8</td>
<td>2,708.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The 9th Statistical Control Unit, Oversea, Special, prepared a tabulation of performance of B-24's and B-25's on the basis of the percentage of sorties successfully destroying their targets. The average percentage during the period from December 1943 to February 1944 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B-24</th>
<th>B-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target Destroyed</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Partially Destroyed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Probably Destroyed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuccessful</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following quotations from photographic intelligence reports give an estimate of damage done to various targets on the basis of photo reconnaissance:

Malcelap—The success of the aerial bombardments directed against MALCELAP in past months is attested by the fact that
the remaining targets, although very worthwhile, are few and scattered and thus probably more vulnerable to dive-bombing than other types of attack.

Mille—Since the end of November when the fleet and air attacks on Mille started which leveled almost all of the major buildings including most of the aircraft servicing facilities, the garrison has made little attempt at the patently futile job of reconstructing damaged and destroyed facilities. Instead, except for the erection of huts, all effort has been concentrated on strengthening ground defenses, the defenders obviously feeling their island marked for invasion.

Jaluit—With the exception of the northern barracks group which was wiped out by Army Liberator strikes early in December, the seaplane base at EMMI offers more or less the same target. Little additional damage has been caused by subsequent strikes.

Nogales—Almost continuous bombing and ship bombardment have been directed against the installations which remained on NORTHERN ISLAND following the carrier strikes of early February. As a result, all are now damaged, in many cases severely, but none are conclusively knocked-out nor has the enemy ceased repairing the runways, the short (NE-SW) runway is serviceable.

Regarding the many night harassing strikes made against enemy bases, particularly prior to the invasion of Kwajalein, the 7-3 of the Seventh Air Force felt that it was extremely questionable whether the results from such missions were commensurate with the effort involved:

"Use of aircraft and crews in this manner results either in a fewer number of each available for other missions where the intent is to strike in force, or the number of missions must necessarily be reduced. To carry out strike missions at reduced strength over enemy antiaircraft defenses places the attackers at a definite disadvantage."

The Army Air Forces Evaluation Board reported that it was the consensus of observers that continued harassing bombing is effective in wearing down defending troops, causing them to lose sleep and hence making them less alert.

Moreover, the effect of the widespread strikes was to confuse the enemy in the interval of the next
amphibious operation and divide his attention.

In connection with the aerial bombardment that augmented a tremendous naval assault prior to the invasion of Kwajalein, it was found that while the bombardments had destroyed or damaged every above-ground fortification, many machine-gun positions remained untouched, and Japs continued to occupy well-camouflaged foxholes.

General Hale summarized the results of Seventh Air Force operations during the FLINTLOCK phase of the Marshalls operations as follows:

The cumulative effect of bomb tonnage dropped, plus the nightly harassment during the final days undoubtedly resulted in causing the enemy in the Marshalls material damage, apprehension, fatigue, and the impairment of the will to resist. An incontestable fact is that our naval forces participating in the assault and occupation of KWAJALEIN and MAJURO were not attacked by one single hostile aircraft.

It must be presumed that the operations of the Seventh Air Force constituted a major factor in attaining the surprise that resulted, and the lack of air resistance that was encountered, by the invasion forces enroute to their objectives.

The results of Seventh Air Force activity in the C.TCHPOLE phase of the operation were described by Brig. Gen. Robert H. Douglass, Jr., as follows:

Photographs and observations of participating crews during this period show that the cumulative damage inflicted on the enemy and his bases was enormous. Practically all buildings and installations above ground on Eili, Wotje, Jaluit, and Makelap were destroyed or seriously damaged. Huge craters show where ammunition dumps were destroyed by direct hits. The demoralizing effect on the enemy must have been very great due to his inability to effectively deal with our attacks. The effectiveness of our operations is also attested to by the fact that there was not one enemy plane sighted in the Marshalls during this period.

The best example of the effectiveness of heavy bombardment was the almost complete destruction of the town of Ponape in five raids without loss to ourselves. Thus, in a period of ten days a good sized town and one of the Japs most important bases and supply centers in the Carolines was virtually wiped out. This was actually the first time that Seventh Air Force bombers engaged in strategic bombing, and the results obtained point the way to even greater destruction of the enemy as more important and more densely populated areas come within our range.
Chapter III
THE MARIANAS

The months of March and April 1944 were a period of transition in the operations of the Seventh Air Force. On the one hand, its units were moving to new bases made possible by the successful outcome of joint operations in the Marshalls and from those bases initiating the bombardment of targets still farther west in preparation for further amphibious assault. On the other hand, they were continuing, and in some instances increasing, their activity over their established targets in the Marshall Islands. This latter phase of operations will be touched upon before discussing the former.

As has been indicated, by the middle of March the fighter and dive-bomber squadrons had terminated their activity in the Central Pacific and were returned to Oahu. The 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron was redesignated the 531st Fighter Squadron, and with the 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons was combined into the 21st Fighter Group (TE). This unit was then re-equipped with new P-38 aircraft and was to operate in the Hawaiian Islands. It was first assigned to the VII Fighter Command, and then to the 7th Fighter Wing, newly activated for the defense of the Hawaiian area and under the operational control of the Central Pacific Base Command.

With fighters and dive-bombers removed from the scene of combat operations, there was a tremendous increase in the activity of the
41st Group's medium bombers. The total number of bombing sorties flown by B-25's jumped from 175 in February to 604 in March. This was increased in April to a high of 875. At the same time, the average length of bombing sorties decreased from 6.9 hours in February to 4.7 hours in March, and to 3.2 hours in April.

This would indicate not only that certain targets were being hit more often than they had been before, but also that those targets most frequently hit were located at relatively close range to the bombers' operating bases. This was the case, with Jaluit and Nekoelap being the targets most frequently hit. During March more sorties were flown over these two targets than over all the others bombed by the B-25's, and during April this increased to over twice as many sorties as were flown over all other targets by B-25's.

The pattern in which most of these sorties were flown was established on 23-24 March ("Z" time) when 11 B-25's from Tarawa bombed Nekoelap from medium altitude, landed at the Navy's newly-developed base at Majuro for refueling and rearming, and on the return to Tarawa bombed Jaluit. These shuttle missions from Tarawa and Makin over Jaluit and Nekoelap, with Nekoelap occasionally being hit in an alternate target, became an almost daily occurrence, and soon were referred to by the crews who made them as "the milk runs." Interceptors had long since ceased to appear over even Nekoelap, so the only opposition was that offered by antiaircraft. No B-25's were shot down over either target during the two months, although Japanese gunners damaged 16 over Nekoelap and four over Jaluit. Continued bombing had destroyed most of the large targets at both places.
on Taroa, where the Japs had for a long time expended considerable effort to keep one runway operational, it was noticed by the middle of March that both runways were unserviceable and that repairs were falling behind the pace of bombings. The only target area still extensive enough to invite area bombing was Jabor Town on Jaluit Island.

For the remainder, pin-point bombing was required. Various gun positions were the favorite targets. They were not a simple target from a distance of 8,000 to 11,000 feet, but good results were obtained.

The same situation as to target areas existed on Wotje and Mille, the other Marshall Islands attacked by the medium bombers. Such installations as did exist were widely scattered, but since they supported the enemy's continued existence, they were considered valuable targets.

Indicative of the quality of the antiaircraft fire met over the two targets is the fact that in over 200 sorties not a single B-25 was damaged.

Although beginning in March, the heavy bombers were used primarily against targets in the Carolines, they also struck their old targets in the Marshalls occasionally. During the two months, March and April, 15 B-24 sorties were flown against Mille, 28 against Maloelap, 41 against Jaluit, and 62 against Wotje. Five sorties were also flown against Nauru. The kind of resistance the Liberators were meeting in this area is illustrated by the fact that none was lost and only three were damaged during the period. Two of the three were damaged over Nauru, and one over Wotje.

In preparation for the B-24 strikes further along the road to the Japanese homeland, the heavy bombardment units of the Seventh Air
Force were redeployed, during March and April, from their bases in the
Gilberts to those recently acquired in the Marshalls. The mediums
remained in the Marshalls, although during April the squadrons of the
41st Bomb Group were moved to Makin from Tarawa and Apanama.21 The
base from which heavy operations were to be conducted was Kwajalein.
Eniwetok, approximately 370 nautical miles to the northwest, was being
developed into a naval facility, and would provide an excellent base
for staging long-distance raids.

The 30th Bomb Group was the first to move. An advance party
arrived at Kwajalein from Apanama on 7 March 1944.22 Part of the air
echelon arrived on 18 March, and by 26 March, Group headquarters and
all three of its squadrons in the forward area were at their new
base.23 While the ground echelons had been making the move to
Kwajalein by water, the air echelons had been stationed at Makin.

The 11th Bomb Group moved from Tarawa to Kwajalein during the
last days of March and the first part of April.24 During the movement
the air echelon of the 26th Bomb Squadron was temporarily based at
Eniwetok,25 and that of the 98th Bomb Squadron at Makin.26 ADVON,
Seventh Air Force, having fulfilled the purpose for which it was formed,
was not moved from Tarawa to Kwajalein, but was disbanded on 26 March
1944, and its functions were turned over to Headquarters VII Bomber
Command, with General Landon, Commanding General of the VII Bomber
Command, being named Deputy Commander of the Seventh Air Force in the
forward area.27 Also, the 9th Troop Carrier Squadron, which had
arrived from the states in February, was moved to Apanama and placed
under the operational control of Central Pacific Combat Air Transport
Service (CENCATS).28
Conditions at Kwajalein, which had undergone such a terrific pre-invasion bombardment, caused considerable dismay to the men who were going to have to live and work there. As one unit historical officer put it: 29

Kwajalein at that time was a good representation of all the city dumps in the U.S.A. plus the permeating odor of dead Japs still unburied. The bomber strip had just been completed, having had priority, but the rest of the Island was a most disheartening mess of broken trees, and blockhouses, the whole surface of the island being plowed up by shell fire and bombs; thick black dust pervaded every nook and cranny.

Yet the heavy bombers were operated in spite of the mess, the primitive living conditions, the dust, the mosquitoes, the heat, and the C rations. Soon Kwajalein was transformed into an orderly if not
attack.\footnote{This was also the first time Kwajalein had been used by a striking force of land-based bombers. Altogether, 48 sorties were flown against Wake during March, and 75 during April.} The great bastion of Truk, in contrast to Wake, was to become the Seventh Air Force's most important target during the period covered by this study. Occupying a central position in the Carolines and situated midway between Saipan and Rabaul, Truk was the keystone of the enemy's outer defense perimeters and the primary base for all South Central Pacific operations. From this anchorage and supply point were launched the attacks which took the Gilberts, Solomons, New Ireland, and New Britain. Truk was the key supply base for the eastern Carolines and a relay point for fighter planes' route to South and Central Pacific enemy bases. The anchorage facilities could accommodate the entire Japanese fleet if necessary, and its airfields could launch a formidable number of planes against an attacker. The atoll consists of a group of about 84 coral and basaltic islands. The larger islands are included by a barrier reef, roughly circular in shape and about 30 miles in diameter. The principal Seventh Air Force targets within the lagoon were the four islands of Dublon, Eten, Moen, and Parap.

Dublon, located in the eastern section of the lagoon, was the center of all activity, containing the enemy's headquarters for the central and eastern Carolines, his main storage and repair facilities, a seaplane base, a submarine base, the main barracks area, and two radio stations. Dublon Town was the scene of greatest activity on the island, although along the entire south shore there were concentrations of docks, warehouses, tank farms, and buildings.
Eto, strategically situated opposite Dublon Town, had the largest and best developed airfield in the atoll. Moen, the northernmost of the larger islands, contained two airstrips and a seaplane base. Parami, centrally located in the lagoon, supported a single airstrip.

The atoll was particularly well-defended. The airfields could send up fighter planes. There were hundreds of antiaircraft and coastal guns on the heights. South Pass and Otta Pass were protected by under-water detection devices, and North Pass had a controlled mine field in its channel. The main lagoon islands were guarded by eight-inch coastal guns, and were also fortified by antiaircraft and ground defenses in depth. There were nine radio stations and three RDF distributed throughout the islands.

The Japanese boasted that Truk was impregnable to any kind of assault, and the feeling was for a long time current that they were right. On 16 February 1944, however, Navy carrier planes struck the fortress in a surprise raid and found it vulnerable to air attack. The Navy pilots swept aside all air opposition and blasted shipping at will. Shortly thereafter, B-24's of the Thirteenth Air Force, by staging through the Green Islands and the newly captured Admiralties, began striking Truk in daylight raids. They met formidable opposition, including 40 to 90 interceptors, in each raid, and their losses in B-24's shot down and damaged were high.36

The first raid on Truk by aircraft of the Seventh Air Force occurred on the night of 15 March 1944, when 22 B-24's of the 30th Bomb Group staged through Kwajalein to drop 500-lb. GP bombs on aircraft installations at Eton and the seaplane base and tank farm at Dublon.
Terrific explosions, illuminating the clouds over Truk, were visible for 30 miles on the return. One to three enemy aircraft were airborne over the target, and antiaircraft fire was moderate to intense, causing minor damage to two B-24's. At the completion of the mission, the Liberators had flown from 3,218 to 3,700 statute miles.  

During the month of March, 70 R-24 sorties were flown over Truk, and during April this was increased to 250 sorties. All of the missions against Truk during these two months were flown at night. Night fighters were in evidence almost every time the Liberators were over the target. Not only were fighters employed, but twin-engine bombers (Betlys) were reported by the returning crews. The interceptors made many attempts at air-to-air bombing with phosphorous bombs, evidently hoping that the evasive action necessary to avoid the bombs would break up the formation and allow the interceptors to concentrate on any crippled aircraft that could not maintain the speed of the rest of the formation. The night fighters' activity was coordinated with searchlights. A B-24 would be held in a cone of light for about 30 seconds; then the lights would switch off. This procedure aided the fighters in locating their potential victim and allowed them to attack without being illuminated themselves.  

Oftentimes, too, the night fighters did not seem anxious to press the attack, and on the whole it was felt that they were not particularly effective.

Probably more effective was antiaircraft, guided by searchlights. The intensity of fire varied with almost every mission. Generally speaking, however, it was at least moderate; and often it was accurate.
Five B-24's were lost and 10 were damaged over Truk during March and April, probably from antiaircraft and operational causes.\textsuperscript{45}

During April, when the rate of attack was stepped up to an average of one mission every other night, and when at the same time the units were in process of moving from the Gilberts to Kwajalein,\textsuperscript{46} the Liberators were operated under extreme difficulties. The six squadrons divided the work as follows: two squadrons of the 11th Group would strike, then one squadron from the 11th Group and one from the 30th would hit, and the third strike would be conducted by two squadrons of the 30th Group.\textsuperscript{47} Since the field at Eniwetok, from which they started staging on 30 March 1944,\textsuperscript{48} could accommodate only two squadrons of B-24's, at a time, it was necessary to shift the squadrons back and forth so that no one squadron would have two strikes in succession. During part of this time, too, the combat crews were deprived of ground echelon service.\textsuperscript{49}

While the bombardment of Truk was being initiated by the B-24's, an earlier target in the Carolines, Ponape,\textsuperscript{50} continued to be hit by Liberators and also came within the range of B-25's by virtue of its relatively short distance from Eniwetok. During March, 95 B-24 sorties and 84 B-25 sorties were flown against Ponape, and during April there were a total of 27 B-24's and 190 B-25's over the target.\textsuperscript{51} Although a few B-24 missions were launched directly against Ponape, most of the strikes by the Liberators occurred when it was an alternate target on raids against Truk. Interception was encountered as late as 25-26 March when 15 Zeke's and Tany's met a squadron of B-25's. Four Zeke's were destroyed in the air, and two were probably destroyed. One B-25 was damaged.\textsuperscript{52} During the two months, six B-24's were damaged over
Ponape (all in March), and 23 B-25's were damaged and one was lost.\textsuperscript{53}

Ponape Town had, of course, been virtually destroyed by the incendiary attacks of February.\textsuperscript{54} Photographs taken the first part of May show that the runways and service areas of the airfield, one and one-half miles southwest of Ponape Town, were pock-marked with bomb craters; and the hangars, 22 warehouses, and seven barracks were destroyed. At the Lunga Island seaplane base, the ramp was cratered, the hangar was destroyed, 50 buildings were destroyed, and 25 were damaged.\textsuperscript{55}

Also in April two missions were flown over the distant Marianas. On 18 April five B-24's made the more than 2,900-mile round-trip flight from Kwajalein to Saipan as escort for five Navy PB4Y photo planes. They dropped 100-lb. bombs on Saipan and were intercepted by 16 to 20 Zeke's, Hamps, and Tonys, of which one was shot down and one was probably shot down. One B-24 crashed in the water as the result of damage, but the crew was rescued by a destroyer.\textsuperscript{56} Again on 25 April seven B-24's escorted seven Navy PB4Y photo planes over Guam. They encountered no antiaircraft or interception. On the return trip, all airplanes stopped over at Los Negros in the Admiralties and from there bombed Ponape.\textsuperscript{57}

By 1 May 1944, the units of the Seventh Air Force were well established at the bases from which they were to conduct their part of the next Pacific joint operation—known under the code name FORAGER—which was the seizure and occupation of the southern Marianas, a little over 1,200 miles west of Eniwetok, and 1,500 miles south of Tokyo.

The general plan of FORAGER was to be performed under command in
Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPAC), Admiral C. W. Nimitz, provided for the occupation of the southern Marianas in order to: a) establish bases for operations against Japanese sea communications and for long-range air attacks against Japan; b) secure control of sea communications through the Central Pacific; and c) initiate the isolation and neutralization of the central Carolines. 58

The task organization under which these objectives were to be accomplished consisted of: a) Central Pacific Task Forces (known as the Fifth Fleet), under Admiral Spruance; b) the Third Fleet under Admiral Halsey; and c) Task Force 17, consisting of submarines, under Vice Admiral Lockwood. 59 Admiral Spruance's Central Pacific Task Forces were charged with the capture, occupation, and defense of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam, the development of bases on those islands, and the acquisition of control of the remaining Marianas. The Third Fleet was to support these operations by aircraft reconnaissance and attacks on enemy bases, and Task Force 17 was to do likewise by the destruction of enemy shipping and the maintenance of observation and life-guard services off Truk, Woleai, and Palau. 60

The Fifth Fleet was a continuance and enlargement of the vast land, sea, and air command (COMCENPAC) with which Admiral Spruance had conducted operations in the Gilberts and Marshalls. Admiral Hoover continued to command Task Force 57 as a part of Admiral Spruance's command. Instead of "Defense Forces and Land Based Air," the command was known as "Forward Area, Central Pacific." 61 The Seventh Air Force was operated as a part of Task Force 57 under a new command known as Commander Shore-Based Aircraft, Forward Area (COMAIRPAC).
activated on 1 May 1944, and designated as Task Force 59. General Hale, who on 15 April 1944 had been succeeded by General Douglass, as Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force, was selected as commander of this task force and his headquarters was established at Kwajalein. This command, as its name implies, consisted of all shore-based aircraft (Army, Navy, and Marine) in the forward area. The Task Organization was as follows:

a) 59.1 Air Defense Command, Marianas, under Colonel McKittrick, USMC.


c) 59.3 Search, Reconnaissance and Photographic Command, under Captain Taff, USN.

d) 59.4 Dive Bomber and Fighter Command, under Brig. Gen. Cushman, USMC.

e) 59.5 Transport Air Group, under Lt. Colonel McQuade, USMC.

All Seventh Air Force units in the forward area were assigned to these various task groups. The 318th Fighter Group, consisting of the 19th, 72d, and 333d Fighter Squadrons, was assigned to 59.1 as was the detachment of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron used in the operation. Task Group 59.2 was composed entirely of the 11th, 30th, and 41st Bomb Groups. The 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron was assigned to 59.3. The 86th Combat Mapping Squadron had also been scheduled for assignment to 59.3 in the Marianas, but while its ground echelon was moved to Saipan, its air echelon was never moved forward because of insufficient space for operations. It did operate from Kwajalein for a time, however. The 9th Troop Carrier Squadron was assigned to and operated under the control of CTG 59.5.
Since the heavy bombardment organization of Task Force 59 was composed entirely of units of the VII Bomber Command, the striking mission of the Task Force became that of the VII Bomber Command. That mission was to strike enemy forces and bases in accordance with the following instructions:

1. **Enemy Shipping and Submarines.** Enemy shipping within range of shore based aircraft in the Central Pacific has been, and will remain, the primary target. Enemy surface vessels and submarines will be vigorously attacked at every opportunity.

2. **Enemy held bases within the MARSHALL ISLANDS.** Every effort will be made to prevent the supply or evacuation of these bases. Surface patrols will be maintained in the vicinity of these bases as practicable by units of Task Force 59. ComTaskFor 59 will furnish air patrols to coordinate with the surface vessels as required. Ground installations, stores, antiaircraft, coastal defense batteries, radio and radar installations must be reduced by persistent attacks by aircraft. These bases must be allowed no serviceable surface-craft of any description in order to prevent the dispersal of their material or concentration of forces against attack.

3. **NAURU, KUSATE, and OCEAN** are largely inactive, and not considered as profitable targets unless reconnaissance shows increased activity. They must be kept under periodic observation.

4. **Enemy held bases in the Eastern CAROLINES** are to be attacked constantly. The priority of immediately available targets, in order of their importance as a potential threat to our forces, is TRUK, PONAPE, WAKE, and others. Particular emphasis may be required on specially designated targets from time to time in order to prevent their use by the enemy against our fleet units at sea.

It was felt that the Marianas, which were the primary objective of the FORAGER operation, were too distant from the available bases to make practicable sustained bombardment by shore-based aircraft. It was intended, however, to continue to coordinate occasional strikes by long-range bombers with reconnaissance missions.

The mission of the 318th Fighter Group, as a part of Task Group 59.1, was to provide air defense for the southern Marianas after the
assault phase of FORAGER. As will be seen, this was later supplemented to include preparation for and close support of the Tinian occupation, marking the first time that Seventh Air Force fighters had been used in such a capacity. 71

As had been the case since November 1943, the actual operations of the Seventh Air Force were continuous, and were not broken up into specific actions. These operations during the period May through July 1944 will be discussed in the following order: first, those of the units based in the Marshalls and Gilberts, and second, those of units which came to be based during the period in the Marianas.

B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups continued to strike Truk as their primary target, as they had in March and April. There was a considerable decrease in activity over the atoll during May, in comparison with what it had been in April, the total number of missions dropping from 15 to seven, and the sorties from 246 to 101. During June, however, these figures were increased to 18 missions and 241 sorties, and during July to 22 missions and 339 sorties. 72

Until the middle of June, all missions over Truk were flown at night. The general plan was for the aircraft participating to take off from Emirikol, the staging base, at five-minute intervals and proceed individually to the Initial Point (the point at which an airplane turns into the target). For a great majority of the night mission this point was near the Northeast Pass of Truk Atoll. The average bombing altitude was 10,000 feet. 73 The planes were alone over the target so far as their occupants knew, and the psychological effect of the experience was described by the crews of one squadron.
as "the same fear that a 10-year-old boy has while running alone through a big cemetery at night." 74

Conditions over the target remained largely the same as they had been earlier. Antiaircraft fire, coordinated to varying degrees with searchlights, continued to vary in intensity and accuracy with almost every mission. Frequently, from one to six unidentified enemy aircraft were encountered over the atoll, but on six of the night missions conducted during May and the first two weeks of June no interceptors were observed. 75 There was some indication, too, that beginning with the last week in May both searchlights and antiaircraft were decreasing in effectiveness. The crews felt that the constant bombardment which they had administered was beginning to have some effect. 76 Further, the bombers began to employ a device to confuse and "jam" the radar equipment by which the defenses were presumably directed. Approximately 24 bundles of radar "window" were carried in each plane and were dropped on the approach as well as over the target. 77 The crews appeared to feel that the practice was effective. One squadron reported that the dropping of window, coupled with evasive action to and from the target, made possible successful evasion of searchlights, and crew members reported lights aimlessly stabbing the sky in the vicinity of the slowly dropping window. 78 Another squadron reported that on the last day of May it used window for the first time and believed it to be satisfactory because several searchlights were encountered, but were erratic and easy to elude. 79 Another evidence of their effectiveness is the fact that, when the 30th Bomb Group exhausted its supply of radar windows during the month of June 1944, their lack was seriously felt. 80
During June one of the 30th Group's airplanes was equipped with an intercept receiver and pulse analyzer for determining frequency and other characteristics of enemy radar. It was the conviction of the Group Operations Officer that installation of radar jammers, to be used in conjunction with this receiver, would be an invaluable aid in deceiving the enemy on approach to the target. At that time, however, none was available.

On 13 June 1944, Seventh Air Force Liberators flew their first daylight mission over Truk. The raid was conducted by three squadrons of the 11th Bomb Group, flying in group formation. Twenty-six B-24's, carrying 100-lb. GP bombs, took off from Eniwetok for the attack, but only 19 got over the target. They were accompanied by three Navy photo planes. Antiaircraft fire was moderate to intense, and varied from inaccurate to accurate. In addition, the Liberators encountered about 15 enemy fighters, mostly Zeke's, which were already at high altitude when the target was reached. They probably had been sent up on warning from Hall Island. This was the first time the Seventh's B-24's had encountered daylight interception since early in January. The interception consisted of coordinated shooting and aerial bomb attacks. The bombs were dropped from 12 or one o'clock high, and the majority of the shooting passes were from 12, one, two, or three o'clock. Although the pilots seemed well trained, hardly any of the attacks were aggressively pressed. One Zeke was destroyed, two Zeke's and one Hamp were probably destroyed, and two Zeke's and two Tojos were damaged. None of the B-24's was lost, and only one was damaged.

The returning crews felt that the coordinated aerial bomb and shooting tactic was designed to break up their formation, or else to
cause a single aircraft to straggle so that the fighters could concentrate on it. 88 Inasmuch as the best defense against enemy fighters appeared to be a tight formation, one squadron stated that the planes should hold their formation even if it necessitated slowing down. 89 It was felt, too, that if this first mission was any indication, the fighter strength at Truk was less than it had been presumed to be. 90

With the exception of a mission flown the night of the 14th, all of the remaining missions against Truk during June were daylight attacks. The change-over from the night missions had been necessitated by the operation within bomber range of Truk of the task force which invaded Saipan on 15 June. 91

The daylight missions over Truk were received with varying reactions by the men who flew them. Some felt that the physical discomfort of flying at 18,000 to 22,000 feet, the restrictions imposed by the use of oxygen equipment, and the necessity for more evasive action reduced the bombing accuracy. 92 It was also pointed out that pattern bombing over a small target was possibly not as effective as bombing by individual airplanes, but inasmuch as there was no fighter escort the bombers went over the target in formation because of its defensive value. 93 Others, especially the gunners, welcomed the daylight raids, because they could "see what they were doing." Also, photographs were taken on the day mission, hence results could be more accurately determined. 94

During the first half of July the procedure for bombing Truk was changed from all daylight missions to alternate day and night strikes. One squadron would make a night-bombing and harassing mission on the
night preceding a daylight-bombing mission by the other two squadrons of the group. During the last half of the month they again switched to daylight missions, flying only two night strikes during the last two weeks. Also, there was one major change in combat tactics during the month. Instead of the usual practice of sending two squadrons to the target in formation and having them separate just prior to the bomb run, three squadrons were used for better protection against aggressive interception.

The Liberators continued to meet interception over Truk. Fighters were up to meet them on almost every daylight mission during June and July, although the number of interceptors fluctuated considerably, varying from 4 to 5 to 16 to 19. Their tactics remained about the same as they were on the first daylight mission, 13 June; and the B-24's continued to rely upon the fire power of a close formation as their primary defense against fighter attacks. In the daylight raids of June and July, the Liberators shot down 22 fighters, probably shot down 4, and damaged 25. Two Liberators were destroyed because of enemy action and 48 were damaged.

It is evident that the Japanese reinforced their meager fighter strength at Truk from time to time. Twice during the period this seems quite apparent: just after the daylight raids began and again in the middle of July. On the two raids following the first one (19 and 20 June) there was no interception. On the next day (21 June), however, six fighters were up to meet one formation of B-24's and nine to meet another. Again, during the second week in July the interception encountered on daylight raids gradually dwindled, until on
10 July the B-24's were unopposed by fighters. On 13 July, however, a formation was met by 12 to 15 Zekes, two Tojos, and two Hamps just prior to crossing the reef. The enemy pilots were aggressive and determined and in a 30-minute battle made about 50 passes, dropping from 32 to 37 phosphorus bombs. The Liberators got much the best of it, however, suffering only minor damage to three airplanes, while they destroyed five Zekes, probably destroyed another, and damaged four.

Truk was the primary target for the Seventh's Liberators during the months May through July, and for all practical purposes May was the last month in which there was much diversion of the strength of the B-24's. During that month as many sorties were flown against Ponape (101) as against Truk. Over Wotje, Jaluit, and Wake there were 76, 54, and 62 sorties flown respectively. Also, on four occasions B-24's escorted Navy PBY photo planes over the Marianas, as they had done twice before in April. Two of these missions were over Guam, and one each over Saipan and Rota. Enemy fighters intercepted in strength on both missions over Guam and on the one over Saipan. One B-24 was destroyed over Saipan, and three were damaged over Guam. The Japanese lost four Zekes and one Oscar, with one Zeko probably destroyed, and six Zekes, two Oscars, and one Hamp damaged. No B-24's were damaged over any of the other targets attacked.

Most of the B-24 sorties over Wotje and Jaluit represented their participation with B-25's and naval aircraft in large-scale attacks on those targets. The attack against Jaluit occurred on 14-15 May, when 53 B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups and 43 B-25's of the 31st Bomb Group dropped a total of 258 tons of GP bombs on the atoll.
The B-25's also strafed with 46,730 rounds of .50-cal. and 217 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. In addition, the beleaguered garrison was attacked by 26 F6F's, 95 PLU's, and 60 SBD's of the Navy. A week later, on 21 May, three bombardment groups of the Seventh Air Force in the forward area hit Wotje in a similar attack, dropping approximately 177 tons of bombs.

Likewise, approximately one-fourth of the B-24 sorties against Ponape for the month were accounted for by a joint Liberator-Mitchell attack. On 27-28 May, 21 B-24's and 52 B-25's dropped a total of 98.5 tons of bombs on that target. Most of the remaining B-24 sorties against Ponape during May were made when it was used as an alternate target for bombers unable to reach Truk. On 5 May, however, 39 B-24's attacked the island, dropping 9.75 tons.

After 1 June, the B-24's struck virtually no targets except Truk. There was one photo mission over Guam, 34 sorties were flown over Ponape as an alternate target on Truk missions, and 13 practice sorties were sent over Wotje.

During all this time, the heavy bombers had been operating under a strenuous schedule, and there is some evidence that their performance was not considered altogether satisfactory. During June the percentage of planes taking off and returning abortive rose from 6.2 to 9.1 per cent. At the same time, the percentage of unsuccessful sorties rose from 3 to 13 per cent. Moreover, the ratio of crews to planes ready for combat fell below one. On 27 June, General Hale, Commander of Task Force 59, wired the Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force that the performance of the heavy bombers was unsatisfactory and was getting worse. He complained of poor bombing accuracy and an
excessive number of abortive missions and declared that he must have more crews and might need a change of command. In response to this, 12 new crews were sent out immediately, and General Douglass offered his A-2, Colonel Waldron, to the VII Bomber Command. On 7 July, Colonel Waldron succeeded Col. William J. Holzapfel as Commanding Officer of the 11th Bomb Group.

There was not much change during July. The percentage of abortives dropped .1 per cent. and that of unsuccessful sorties rose 2 per cent. It was felt, however, that the condition was improving. The crews were getting more experience in handling the airplanes, thus minimizing malfunctions caused by the high power settings.

Also, bombing with APCE (automatic flight control equipment) had been instituted. It was believed that the low percentage of hits in the target area had been because the pilots unconsciously deviated from the bomb run under aggressive attack from enemy fighters. By eliminating the human error it was believed that somewhat better results would be obtained, although by the end of the month conclusive evidence was not available.

While the B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups were bombing Truk, Ponape, and Wake, during May 1944, the medium bombers of the 41st Bomb Group continued their attacks on the by-passed Marshalls and on Ponape. Wotje, however, replaced Maloelap as one of the two targets hit in the regular Makin-Majuro shuttle runs. Jaluit continued to be the other target. The B-25's also hit these targets in the large-scale attacks conducted in conjunction with B-24 strikes. Ponape, which also was hit by a combined Liberator-
Mitchell attack, was the third of the 41st Group's primary targets during May. Mille and Maloelap also were struck occasionally, and Nauru, which had not been bombed by B-25's since six sorties were flown there in January, again came under the sights of the Mitchells in attacks presaging a period of concentration on that target.\textsuperscript{127}

Only over Nauru and Ponape was any considerable opposition met during the month. One B-25 was lost over Ponape, and three were damaged.\textsuperscript{128} Over Nauru, which furnished some of the most effective antiaircraft fire in the entire Pacific Ocean Area, 11 B-25's were damaged in 45 sorties.\textsuperscript{129} Altogether, seven B-25's were damaged over the Marshalls in May, and none were lost.\textsuperscript{130}

Despite the relatively slight opposition over all targets except two, the percentage of bombs on specific targets fell considerably below the usual high level, and unsuccessful sorties increased from 2.5 per cent in April to 12 per cent in May.\textsuperscript{131} One squadron felt that this was due, in part at least, to the number of very small targets assigned—two revetted gun positions for all flights on some occasions—and also to the fact that heavier bombs, of which fewer could be dropped, had to be carried because small bombs were no longer available.\textsuperscript{132}

Except for 17 sorties flown against Jaluit in July, the only targets attacked by the B-25's operating from Mokil after May were Ponape and Nauru, the latter being the target against which the greater effort was exerted. Despite damage which resulted from naval air and surface bombardment early in December 1943, and subsequent attacks by land-based aircraft, the targets on Nauru in mid-June were about the
same as they had been in the beginning. Although there had been no new construction since December 1943 on an unfinished runway, both of the completed runways appeared operational. Likewise, Nauru remained one of the hottest spots in the Pacific, although there was a steady decrease in the ratio of hits by antiaircraft to the number of sorties flown. During June, 14 B-25's were damaged and three were lost out of approximately 123 sorties, and during July only eight B-25's were damaged in approximately 129 sorties. Six airplanes were damaged in approximately 189 sorties over Ponape during June and July.

At approximately 1000 hours on 22 June 1944—only seven days after the first wave of Marines had assaulted the beaches—P-47's of the 19th Fighter Squadron, having been catapulted from carriers, landed at Aslito Field on Saipan. Although the airstrip was hardly secured, within four hours after arrival eight planes took off on their first ground support mission. Upon leaving the carriers, each plane had been loaded with 400 rounds of ammunition for the two inboard guns and 265 rounds in each of the remaining guns. It was expected that the only servicing required would be refueling. The first mission, however, called for rockets. Within the four hours that elapsed between the initial landing and the take-off on that first mission, rocket launchers had been installed in the eight planes and the projectiles had been loaded. All this had been done within the sound and sight of ground fighting.

This was the first time fighter planes of the Seventh Air Force had been used in close support of ground troops. During the remainder
of June and July, and later, the fighter squadrons operating from Aslito (renamed Iealy) Field maintained the strenuous schedule established during those first hectic hours.

Within two days the 19th Fighter Squadron was reinforced by the P-47's of the 73rd Fighter Squadron and a detachment of seven P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron. With the arrival of the P-47's of the 333d Fighter Squadron on 18 July, fighter strength on Saipan mounted to well over 100 aircraft.

The primary mission of the 318th Fighter Group, as has been indicated, was the defense of the island of Saipan. This responsibility was carried out from 0515 to 1900 (local time) by P-47's on combat air patrol, with the squadron on patrol maintaining a minimum of eight planes in flight and 12 standing by on alert. At night the P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron took over the patrol.

In addition to combat air patrol, the fighters were dispatched on special bombing and strafing missions. These attacks were flown primarily against airfields, gun positions, and communications installations on Tinian. From the beginning of operations, on-station strikes also were flown against these targets. Such missions were coordinated with schedules of naval gun fire, attacks by carrier-based planes, and fire from Army and Marine artillery. Until Tinian was made secure on 31 July, these targets were hit daily during both the morning and afternoon. Finally, bombing and strafing attacks were launched periodically on runways, installations, and antiaircraft positions at Rota and Pagan Islands.

The P-47's were versatile. They could strafe with .50-cal. machine
guns, double as bombers, and launch 4.5-inch rockets. Late in the month they began carrying a new type of weapon, the "fire bomb.
Recently developed at Eglin Field, Florida, and brought directly to Saipan, fire bombs as used by the 318th Fighter Group consisted of wing tanks and belly tanks, filled at first with a mixture of diesel oil and gasoline and later with a napalm and gasoline mixture. The entire apparatus for mixing and loading the bomb's ingredients had to be constructed from materials at hand. The technique for dropping them was to dive from about 2,000 feet to 50 feet and skip bomb.

With few exceptions, especially after the Ordnance Department modified the detonator assembly by removing the detonator and putting a filler of black powder in the grenade, there was no duds and the bomb burst resulted in a huge sheet of flame covering a sizable area, searing anything within that area. While it was considered that much work had yet to be done on them, it was reported that the fire bombs proved very effective in the Tinian campaign and cleared areas approximately 75 feet in width by 200 feet in length.

Of the other methods of attack, rockets were found to be effective, although trouble was experienced because rockets fired inconsistently as a result of faulty electrical installations. The squadrons requested that more information on rocket installations be made available to them. Because of the difficulties experienced with the rockets, there was a great deal more dive bombing than rocket firing. In many instances, the target was often little more than a pinpoint—a revetted gun position, or guns in caves in the sides of cliffs. In such cases, hits were difficult to secure. The squadrons reported high bombing efficiency, however, when the objective was the destruction of buildings.
or the neutralization of airfields.  

Strafing appears to have been the most accurate means of attack. Because of the terrain, it was frequently impossible to see through the heavy foliage and many pilots actually never saw a single Japanese soldier from the air, though there was reason to believe that large numbers of them must have perished because of fighter activity.

On other strikes, because of the Japanese tendency to dig in by day and operate only by night, most of the damage inflicted was upon material rather than personnel.

Most missions were directed by a controller, and targets were not assigned until just prior to the attack. Targets were located by the grid coordinate system, and whereas this enabled the pilots to locate the target generally, it was felt that lack of preliminary briefing was a definite hindrance, both in lack of detailed information on the target and lack of opportunity to plan the method of attack. Also, it was believed that grid coordinate locations of targets should be checked against photos before the pilots used the maps. There was also a feeling on the part of the pilots that there was no particular reason why they should have been kept in the air, orbiting the target for long periods before attacking. A method of fighter direction which did appeal to the pilots was one used during the Tinian campaign in which Ground Control would turn the missions over to a controller ("Torchy") flying a TBF. This pilot, after bringing the P-47's in close behind him, would drip a wing or even fire a short burst or a rocket at the target as he described it by radio. The Evaluation Board reported that this system was considered to be very effective.
Opposition encountered by the P-47's on all of their missions was relatively slight. There was no interception on any of the bombing-strafing missions, or on any fighter sweep. Antiaircraft was encountered, in varying intensity and accuracy, but generally it was ineffective. Over Tinian, the fire varied from none to meager-to-intense machine-gun and light antiaircraft fire. By 22 July, however, it had virtually disappeared. Likewise; over Saipan the fighters seldom encountered fire. Over Rota, they occasionally met intense machine-gun and some light antiaircraft fire, although in general there was none. The heaviest and most intense antiaircraft was encountered over Pagan.

On an average, over all targets, the P-47's encountered antiaircraft fire on 52 per cent of their sorties. During the period from 22 June through 31 July 1944, one P-47 was destroyed by antiaircraft, and nine were destroyed by accidents, including accidents after damage from enemy action.

Ten were damaged by antiaircraft, and six were damaged in accidents during the period. In addition, Japanese snipers, filtering through the lines at Isely Field on the third night after occupancy destroyed one P-47 on the ground and reportedly damaged two others.

Operation of the Thunderbolts naturally presented many problems. As has been indicated, there was some dissatisfaction on the part of the pilots with the system by which they were assigned targets.

There was also some dissatisfaction in the 318th Group with the way in which they received their orders. The procurement of ammunition from the beaches and the loading of planes on schedule was a chronic
problem in the early stages of the campaign, and one that was aggravated by the shortage of trucks.\textsuperscript{172}

One of the major problems confronting the 15th Fighter Squadron during the first few days of operations was attributed by the squadron to the zeal and eagerness of the pilots. The squadron history reports that desire to make every strafing pass count resulted in "an unexpected number of burned-out gun barrels." However, as soon as the situation was apparent, more caution was used and this conditions was reduced to a minimum.\textsuperscript{172}

Further, conditions at Isely Field were cramped and limiting. One squadron historical report describes it:\textsuperscript{173}

...the short and extremely rough runway, and the cramped space allotted which not only ruled out proper dispersal for security purposes but also required parking planes too close for ordinary line efficiency. Air traffic became terrific; take-off was frequently delayed and landing was a matter of simply waiting for a lull. It seemed that practically every type of Army and Navy plane - fighter, bomber, transport and reconnaissance - was utilizing the facilities of the field.

The close proximity to the battle line of the area in which the planes were serviced and the crews were housed and fed further added to the burden. The destruction of one P-47 by snipers has been mentioned. Air Force technicians had not only to service and maintain their planes under primitive conditions but also to double as foot-soldiers to defend themselves against Japanese snipers.\textsuperscript{174} Despite all this, however, the fighter planes on Saipan were maintained up to 91 per cent of the total aircraft in commission.\textsuperscript{175}

In summary of the activity of the 318th Fighter Group during the period, the following is quoted from the history of the VII Fighter-
Command: 176

The 318th Fighter Group, the units attached to it, and the Signal AW companies, found themselves in an almost unique situation in the FORAGER operation, an opportunity for the closest kind of association and cooperation between fighter planes and ground troops. Nsely Field was at one time part of the front lines; throughout the Tinian and Saipan campaigns, Fighter Command planes frequently took off and hit enemy positions within sight of the field, sometimes within earshot; planes aloft on patrol were often diverted to aid troops only a short distance from their patrol course. The commendations earned by the Command units in the campaign are a clear indication of how vital a factor close coordination between ground and air was in the conquest of the islands...

The seven P-61's operating from Saipan flew 105 sorties during the period from 24 June to 31 July 1944. During 25 of these, radar contact was made with a total of approximately 30 bogies. In six sorties aerial interception occurred. The Black Widows destroyed three enemy aircraft, probably destroyed one, and damaged one. No combat losses were sustained during the period, although two P-61's were lost in June because of a landing accident, and two more were lost in July due to a field crack-up.177

In addition to the F-47's of the 318th Fighter Group and the P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron, one flight of P-5's of the 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron was operating from Saipan, beginning 11 July 1944. These P-38's, converted for use as photo-reconnaissance planes, flew 36 sorties over the Marianas from 14 to 31 July, in addition to only one abortive.178 Of the 36 sorties, all but four were successful or partially successful. Photo runs were made from altitudes as low as 40 feet to as high as 14,750 feet.179 There were no losses.180

Near the end of July, the 48th Bomb Squadron, having moved from...
Makin, began operating its B-25's from Saipan. The primary operations of this squadron during the brief period it was at Saipan were against Guam during August and will be discussed in a later study. During the last five days of July, however, 69 B-25 sorties were flown against Tinian. Part of them were low-level bombing and strafing missions in deep support of ground troops, and part were observation flights in which Marine officers were carried as observers. The purpose of the observation missions was the selection of targets for tactical-support bombing and naval and land-based gun-fire and to observe the results thereof. These flights were made at fairly low levels, employing from one to three airplanes per mission, and the crews occasionally cannonaded and strafed enemy targets of opportunity. Because of their high speed and the lack of clarity from their throat microphones, the B-25's were not completely satisfactory for observation. After six missions over Tinian, their use for this purpose was discontinued, and thereafter on B-25 missions the observer flew in a Navy TBF.

In summing up the operations of the Seventh Air Force during the Marianas campaign—that is to say, the period from March through July 1944—the following figures taken from reports prepared by the 9th Statistical Control Unit, Oversea, Special, are given to show the effort expended against the various targets, by month, during the period.
### Short Tons of Bombs Dropped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marlls</td>
<td>175.0</td>
<td>326.5</td>
<td>431.3</td>
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<td>339.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Truk</td>
<td>140.2</td>
<td>577.5</td>
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<td>565.2</td>
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<td>2400.6</td>
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<td>Ponape</td>
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<td>352.6</td>
<td>135.2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oroluk</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minto Reef</td>
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<td>5.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truk</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pingelap</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlls</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>475.4</td>
<td>458.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eto</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>85.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagan</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saipan</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guan</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wake</td>
<td>122.2</td>
<td>171.3</td>
<td>140.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>434.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>222.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1104.5</td>
<td>1830.2</td>
<td>1613.7</td>
<td>856.3</td>
<td>1611.3</td>
<td>7016.0</td>
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</table>

In general, the effectiveness of this tonnage has been indicated in the discussions of operations. As has been mentioned, there was some reduction in bombing efficiency during the course of the period. In addition, both the effectiveness and the desirability of the bombing of the by-passed Marlls has been questioned. It has also been pointed out that the effectiveness of the targets in the Caroline bombed by the Seventh Air Force was rapidly waning from outside causes during the period.

Whatever the reason, however, the fact remains that, as the Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force has stated, the Marlls,
Wake, Nauru, and the eastern Carolinas were completely subdued and kept that way during the entire operation. With the exception of once at Fonape, not an enemy airplane was encountered in those areas during the entire operation. Shipping was non-existent, and any supplies received by the beleaguered Japanese who were garrisoning the islands came by submarine.

Truk, while continuing to offer resistance in the form of both interception and antiaircraft, was badly battered and wholly incapable of use as a threat to our bases or an impediment to our movements in the FORAGER campaign.
Although the Seventh Air Force took part in three major campaigns during the nine months covered by this study, its operations throughout the entire period were continuous. Even during the rapid change of bases necessitated by the sweep of American sea, land, and air power across the Pacific, the tempo of the attack was maintained. The air echelons would be stationed temporarily on one island or another, while the ground echelons made the move by water. At some point in their shrinking network of Pacific bases the Japanese were kept continuously under bombardment by land-based aircraft.

The force available for this bombardment was small—two heavy bomb groups and one medium group, augmented for a while by three squadrons of fighters and one of dive bombers and later by three squadrons of F-47's and a detachment of night fighters—but small as it was, it was sufficient for the job at hand. Operation of land-based aircraft in the Pacific has always been complicated by the dual difficulty of finding suitable land areas on which to base and suitable targets within range of those bases. In an effort to broaden the scope of their activity as much as possible, all types of aircraft were pushed to the limit of their range. To increase this range further, bombers based on one tiny atoll would be staged through another. This made necessary the longest over-water combat flights in the history of the
war—flights in which the vastness of the Pacific Ocean at times equaled the Japanese’ in deadliness.

Total bomb tonnage dropped by all types of aircraft on all targets during the nine months amounted to 10,024.1 short tons, divided as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Short Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gilberts</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarawa</td>
<td>51.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makin</td>
<td>31.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshalls</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Jaluit</td>
<td>1375.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wotje</td>
<td>1222.5</td>
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<td>Maloelap</td>
<td>1128.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mille</td>
<td>780.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwajalein</td>
<td>315.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Majuro</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rongelap</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aur</td>
<td>8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arno</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lidiep</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truk</td>
<td>2400.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponape</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kusdei</td>
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<td>Shipping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tinian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rota</td>
<td>85.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagan</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saipan</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake</td>
<td>454.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>275.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10024.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the nine months, too, the forward units of the Seventh Air Force had moved steadily away from the Hawaiian islands, the Hawaiian
Islands, and closer to the Japanese homeland. In November 1943 they had been stationed in the Ellice Islands, some 2,200 miles from Cahu and 3,500 miles from Tokyo. By 31 July 1944, the day before the Seventh Air Force became a part of Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, certain units already had been moved to the Marianas and plans were under way for bringing in others. With the arrival of ground and air echelons of the VII Bomber Command in Saipan early in August, forward units of the Seventh Air Force had moved more than 3,000 miles from the Hawaiian Islands and were now based less than 1,300 miles from Tokyo.²
NOTES

Chapter I

1. For an account of the operations of the Seventh Air Force in this early period, see AAF Historical Studies: No. 41, Operational History of the Seventh Air Force, 7 December 1941 to 8 November 1942.

2. For an outline of the task organization, which is beyond the scope of this study, see COMCHPPAC-O-Operation Plan Gen 1-43, 25 Oct. 43.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. 7AF, "The Power of Heavies in the 'Galvanic' Operation, D-7 to D Day."


8. 7AF PID, Photographic Intelligence Report 57, 20 Sep. 43.


10. Ltr., CG 7AF to CG VII AFSC, 21 Oct. 43, in AG 7AF 372.3, Zone of Advance.


12. Ibid.


15. 7AF PID, PI Report 61, 30 Oct. 43.

17. Ibid.: Statement on Malin Island in VII BC files.
18. JICFOA Bul. 56-43, Jaluit, 10 Dec. 43.
19. JICFOA Bul. 60-43, Mille, 16 Dec. 43.
20. JICFOA Bul. 52-43, Malolap, 25 Nov. 43.
21. IFCOA Air Target Bul. 30, Mauuru, 15 Feb. 43.
22. JICFOA Bul. 53-43, Kwajalein, 1 Dec. 43.
23. TAF FO 22, 2 Nov. 43.
25. TAF FO 2, 2 Nov. 43.
26. Ibid.
27. Advon TAF FO 4a, 13 Nov. 43.
28. Ibid., Change 1, 14 Nov. 43.
32. Operations of TAF, as cited in n. 16.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Advon TAF Mission Reports.

41. ADEPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, p. 55.

42. Ibid., pp. 21-22.

43. Ibid., p. 55.

44. Ibid., p. 23.
Chapter II

1. Advon 7AF Mission Reports 14, 24 Nov. 43; 14A, 22 Nov. 43; and 14B, 23 Nov. 43.


4. Dates of arrival were as follows: Hq. 41st Bomb Gp., at Tarawa, 17 Dec. 43; 47th Bomb Sq., Apamama, 25 Dec. 43; 48th Bomb Sq., Apamama, 22 Dec. 43 (except that the air echelon was at Baker until 14 Jan. 44); 395th Bomb Sq., Tarawa, 24 Dec. 43; and 620th Bomb Sq., Tarawa, 24-25 Dec. 43. Information from unit histories.

5. The ground echelon arrived at Makin on 17 Dec. 43; the new airplanes, with pilots, arrived 14 Dec. 43, and the air echelon moved from Canton to Makin, 27 Dec. 43. History of 48th Fighter Sq.

6. History of 72d Fighter Sq.

7. The rear echelon arrived at Apamama on 4 Jan. 44, and the forward echelon at Makin, 14 Jan. 44. History of 48th Fighter Sq.

8. History of 531st Fighter Sq.


11. History of 42d Bomb Sq.


13. History of 392d Bomb Sq.


17. For the task organizations see COMOPAC Operation Plans Gen 1-44, 6 Jan. 44, and Gen 4-44, 2 Feb. 44.

19. CONCEALED Operation Plan Gen 1-44, 6 Jan. 44.

20. Ibid., Gen 4-44, 9 Feb. 44.


23. Ad'mn 7AF and P/E VII BC Mission Reports.


25. Ad'mn 7AF and P/E VII BC Mission Reports.


27. Ad'mn 7AF and P/E VII BC Mission Reports.

28. Ibid.


30. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 9.

31. P/E VII BC Mission Reports.

32. JICPOA Bul. 27-44. Ponape, 1 Apr. 44.

33. P/E VII BC Mission Reports.

34. Ibid., 122. 19 Feb. 44; and 123, 20 Feb. 44.

35. JICPOA Bul. 50-43. Kusaie, 30 Dec. 43.

36. P/E VII BC Mission Reports.

37. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to CTF 57, 4 May 44.

38. Ibid.


40. Ibid., 44, 1 Jan. 44.
41. Ibid., 46, 1 Jan. 44.

42. F/3 VII BC Mission Reports.

43. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 18.


45. Ibid.

46. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 17.

47. F/3 VII BC Mission Reports.

48. Ibid., 90, 3 Feb. 44.

49. F/3 VII BC Mission Reports.


51. Ibid., 1-19.

52. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 28.

53. Ibid.

54. Ibid., p. 27.


56. Ibid., 29-31 Jan. 44.


58. Ibid.

59. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 36.

60. Ibid., pp. 36, 38.

62. Ibid., 29-31 Jan. 44.

63. See p. 25.


66. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to CTF 57, 4 May 44.


68. Ibid., 20-29 Feb. 44.

69. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," pp. 43-44.

70. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, CG 7AF to CTF 57, 15 Feb. 44.


72. Ibid., 43, 29 Dec. 43.

73. Ibid., 24-31 Dec. 43.

74. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

75. F/E VII BC and VII FC Mission Reports.

76. Ibid.

77. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

78. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, to CTF 57, 15 Feb. 44.

79. F/E VII BC Mission Reports. There is some confusion as to the exact number of enemy planes destroyed and damaged by the B-25's because of the possibilities of duplication existing in the reports on the mission over Maloelap of 26 Jan. 44 on which both BC and FC reports were submitted. These figures give the B-25's credit for nine destroyed, five probably destroyed, and three damaged. For details see "26 Jan. 44, Maloelap," in Chronology.

80. See p. 23.

81. See n. 79 above.

82. F/E VII BC Mission Report 76, 29 Jan. 44.
83. Ibid., 86, 31 Jan. 44.
84. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to CTF 57, 4 May 44.
85. Ibid.
86. Ibid.
87. Incl. to Ltr., Maj. Gen. Willis E. Hale, to CTF 57, 15 Feb. 44.
89. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to CTF 57, 4 May 44.
91. See p. 9.
92. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CTF 57, 4 May 44.
93. Ibid.
95. Ibid., p. 47.
96. Ltr., Col. Sylvan Berliner, Hq. VII FC to Group and Squadron S-2's, subject: Letters from Intelligence Officers, Task Group 57.2.2, 11 Jan. 44, in Doc. 6, History of VII Fighter Command, Sep. 44.
97. See p. 11.
98. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 1.
100. COMAIRCHINPAC PI Report 95, 6 Mar. 44.
101. Ibid., 65, 16 Feb. 44.
102. Ibid., 64, 16 Feb. 44.
103. Ibid., 77, 26 Feb. 44.
104. Seventh Air Force Participation in Flintlock-Catchpole Operation, 7 December 1943-2 March 1944, submitted by the CG 7AF (as the Air Officer, USAFICPA) to CG, USAFICPA.

105. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, p. 29.


107. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, p. 29.


Chapter III

1. See Chap. II.
2. GO 60, HCPA, 27 Feb. 44.
3. GO 113, HCPA, 21 Apr. 44.
4. GO 47, 7AF, 24 Apr. 44.
5. GO 90, 7AF, 3 July 44.
   Summary of Seventh Air Force Operations, 3 March 1944 through 15
   August 1944, dtd. 1 Oct. 44.
7. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 19.
8. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, Carolines,
11. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
12. Ibid., 184, 1 Apr. 44.
13. History of 820th Bomb Sq., Apr. 44.
15. COMAIRCEPAC PI Report 118, 21 Mar. 44.
16. Ibid., 120, 25 Mar. 44.
17. History of 820th Bomb Sq., Apr. 44.
18. COMAIRCEPAC PI Reports 107, 10 Mar. 44; and 118, 15 Mar. 44.
20. Ibid.

22. History of 30th Bomb Grp., to 31 Mar. 44.

23. Dates of arrival at Kwajalein were as follows: 30th Bomb Grp., ground echelon, 12 Mar. 44—air echelon, 26 Mar. 44; 27th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 12 Mar. 44—air echelon, 26 Mar. 44; 38th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 13 Mar. 44—air echelon, 22 Mar. 44; 392d Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 17 Mar. 44—air echelon, 23 Mar. 44. Information from unit histories.

24. Dates of arrival at Kwajalein were as follows: 11th Bomb Grp., 5 Apr. 44; 26th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 14 Apr. 44—air echelon, 17 Apr. 44; 98th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 2 Apr. 44—air echelon, 23 Mar. 44; 431st Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 31 Mar. 44—air echelon, 2 Apr. 44. Information from unit histories.

25. History of 36th Bomb Sq.


28. Ibid.

29. History of 392d Bomb Sq.

30. This means out of reach of the bases from which the Seventh Air Force was then operating. Wake could have been hit, of course, by land-based aircraft staging from Midway.

31. See Operational History of the Seventh Air Force, 7 December 1941 to 6 November 1942.


34. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.


36. Ibid.
38. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
40. Ibid.
41. Ibid., p. 49.
42. Ibid., p. 52.
45. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44. See also F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
46. See pp. 26-37.
47. History of 11th Bomb Grp., Apr. 44.
49. History of 11th Bomb Grp., Apr. 44.
50. See p. 18.
51. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
52. Ibid., 189, 11 Apr. 44.
53. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
54. See p. 19.
57. Ibid., H-231, 3 May 44; and H-232, 3 May 44.
58. CINCPAC-CINCPAC Special G-2955, Operations from 3-44, 23 Apr. 44.
59. Ibid.

60. Ibid.

61. TF 50, Central Pacific Task Forces and Commander Fifth Fleet, Operation Plan ComFIFTHFleet Gen 10-44, 12 May 44.


63. GQ 40 and 41, USAF, 15 Apr. 44.


65. TF 50, Operation Plan ComFIFTHFleet Gen 10-44, 12 May 44.

66. The movement of these units to the forward area is discussed later. See pp. 55-58.


68. TF 50, Operation Plan ComFIFTHFleet Gen 10-44, 12 May 44.


70. CINCPAC--CINCPAC Serial COC31, Forager Joint Staff Study, 20 Mar. 44.


72. Information from F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

73. History of 27th Bomb Sq., June 44.

74. Ibid.

75. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.


77. History of 30th Bomb Cp., June 44.


80. History of 30th Bomb Cp.

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81. Ibid.

82. History of 11th Bomb Grp.


84. Ltr., Asst., S-2 25th Bomb Sq. to CO 11th Bomb Grp., 15 June 44.

85. See pp. 24-25.

86. VII BC Combat Narrative Report 12, 23 June 44.


88. VII BC Combat Narrative Report 12, 23 June 44.

89. Ltr., Asst., S-2 25th Bomb Sq. to CO 11th Bomb Grp., 15 June 44.

90. Ibid.

91. History of 11th Bomb Grp.

92. History of 30th Bomb Grp.

93. History of 27th Bomb Sq.

94. History of 30th Bomb Grp.

95. History of 27th Bomb Sq.

96. VII BC Mission Reports.

97. History of 11th Bomb Grp.

98. VII BC Mission Reports.

99. See p. 46.

100. VII BC Mission Reports.

101. Ibid., H-270, 23 June 44; and H-271, 23 June 44.

102. Ibid., H-272, 23 June 44; and H-275, 25 June 44.

103. Ibid., H-282, 16 July 44.

104. Ibid., H-294, 16 July 44.
105. See p. 42.

106. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

107. Ibid.

108. Ibid., H-250, 19 May 44; and K-243, 19 May 44.

109. VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 May 44.

110. F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-254, 30 May 44; and K-250, 30 May 44.

111. Ibid., H-253, 2 June 44; and K-258, 5 June 44.

112. Ibid., H-286, 11 May 44.

113. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

114. 9th SQU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 11.

115. Ibid., p. 12.

116. Ibid., p. 8.

117. CM-IN-2704232Z, CTF 59 to CG 7AF, 27 June 44, in AG 7AF 373.2, Operations & Reports (Bombing).

118. CM-OUT-2704322Z, CG 7AF to CTF 59, 27 June 44, Ibid.

119. 902, Eq. 11th Bomb Gp.

120. 9th SQU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 11.

121. Ibid., p. 13.


123. Ibid.

124. See pp. 33-35.

125. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

126. See p. 62.

127. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
128. Ibid.
129. Ibid.
130. Ibid.
131. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 27.
132. History of 396th Bomb Sq. May 44.
133. Hq. Command VI Report 13, 17 June 44.
134. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
135. Ibid.
136. History of VII Fighter Command, Aug. 44. For an account of this see USS Manila Bay (CVE-61) Serial 067 to Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet, 4 July 44, and USS Matomi Bay (CVE-62) Serial 211 to Commander Carrier Transport Sq. Pacific Fleet, 8 July 44. History of VII Fighter Command, Nov. 44.
140. History of VII Fighter Command, Aug. 44.
141. See p. 45.
142. History of 318th Fighter Gp., July 44.
143. Ibid.
144. Ibid.
145. Ibid.
146. Ltr., CO 318th Fighter Gp., AFC 244 to CG VII FC, APO 958, 1 Aug. 44, Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41-July 44.
148. History of 73rd Fighter Sq.
150. History of 73rd Fighter Sq.
151. Ltr., CO 316th Fighter Op., APO 244 to CO VII FC, APO 958, 1 Aug. 44, Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41-July 44.
152. 9th SCU, Report on Extracts from AAF Forms 34, 19th Fighter Sq., 21 June 44 to 30 June 44.
153. History of 73rd Fighter Sq.
154. Ibid.
155. Ibid.
156. Ibid.
157. Ibid.
158. Ibid.
159. Eq. VII FC, "Conclusions Based on Mission Reports from 318th Fighter Op.," by Col. Sylvan Berliner, 1-2 VII FC, 15 Aug. 44, Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, July 44. The matter of pictures, incidentally, appeared to be a sore spot. One Squadron complained: "It was common knowledge that photographic coverage was at all times available to any naval command which desired it, but for the most part the Army Fighter Squadrons lacked even an ordinary aerial view (or map) of most of the enemy airfields. There was a slight improvement in this situation after the F-5s were operating, and the big moment came (well along in the campaign) when a mosaic of Tirana was made available." History of 73rd Fighter Sq. July 44.
160. Eq. VII FC, "Conclusions Based on Mission Reports from 318th Fighter Op.,"
161. History of 73rd Fighter Sq., July 44.
164. Ibid.
166. Ibid., p. 42.
167. Ibid., p. 41.
168. Ibid., pp. 39, 42.
169. See p. 58.
170. For a discussion of this, see "Miscellaneous Notes - Operations," Doc. 3, History of VII Fighter Command, Sep. 44.
172. History of 19th Fighter Sq., June 44.
173. History of 73d Fighter Sq., July 44.
174. Ibid., June 44.
175. History of VII Fighter Command, Aug. 44.
176. Ibid.
177. 9th SFO, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," pp. 48-49.
178. Ibid., p. 52.
179. Ibid.
180. Ibid., p. 53.
181. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
183. In addition to the tonnage listed, 144 fire bombs were dropped over Tinian in July; Ujelang in the Carolines was unauthorised target. 9th SFO, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 1; 9th SFO, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 1.
184. See pp. 52-53.
185. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report l, pp. 35-36.
186. Ibid.
188. Ibid.
189. F/N VII BC Mission Reports.

CONCLUSION

CHRONOLOGY

OPERATIONS OF SEVENTH AIR FORCE

6 November 1943 to 31 July 1944*

NOVEMBER

6 Nov. 43 Advanced Headquarters (ADVON) of the Seventh Air Force established at Funafuti. (Ltr., CG 7AF to CG VII ARSC, 21 Oct. 43. AG 7AF 372.3 Zone of Advance.)

9 Nov. 43 Ground echelon of the 11th Bomb Group arrived at Funafuti. (History of 11th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44.)

10 Nov. 43 Ground echelon of 27th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group, arrived at Nanomea. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of 392d Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group, arrived at Canton. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

11 Nov. 43 Ground echelons of 20th Bomb Squadron and 98th Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Group, arrived at Nukuiuenau. (History of 20th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 98th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Group, arrived at Funafuti. (History of 431st Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

12 Nov. 43 Following units arrived at Funafuti: air echelon of Headquarters 11th Bomb Group; ground and air echelons of 42d Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Group; and air echelon of 431st Bomb Group (History of 11th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 42d Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 431st Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Following units arrived at Nanomea: air echelon of 30th Bomb Group; part of air echelon of 27th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group; and air echelon of 38th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group. (History of 30th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 27th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 38th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

* The dates on which the missions of all bombardment squadrons occurred are based on Greenwich Civil Time, and those on which fighter missions occurred are based on local time at the base from which the squadron was operating.
12 Nov. 43 (Contd) Following units arrived at Canton: air echelon of 392d Bomb Squadron and air echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron. The latter used Canton only temporarily, then moved to Makinetau. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 26th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of 98th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makinetau. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

13 Nov. 43 TARAWA - Nine B-24's of 43d Bomb Squadron and 10 of 431st Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Tarawa. One airplane of 431st Bomb Squadron did not take off because of oil leak and one was abortive because of engine trouble. The remainder dropped 126 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters from 8,500 feet. The airplanes of the 43d Bomb Squadron dropped 65 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,000 feet, 11 of which fell in the water and the rest probably on land. One large fire was visible for 60 miles at 16,000 feet. AA intense but inaccurate, and caused no damage. One airplane disappeared on way back to Funafuti and was not heard from again. (Advon TAF Consolidated Mission Report 1, 14 Nov. 45.)

14 Nov. 43 TARAWA - Eleven B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Betio Island. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Nine dropped 155 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters from 16,500 to 17,600 feet, 70 per cent on runways and taxi strips. Heavy AA accurate as to altitude, but trailing, and caused no damage. No interception. (Advon TAF Consolidated Mission Report 2, 16 Nov. 45.)

MILLE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 38th Bomb Squadron assigned a mission against Mille. The airplanes of the 38th returned to base on orders without reaching target. Those of 27th dropped 90 x 100-lb. demolition bombs from 9,600 to 10,500 feet, 60 per cent in target area. Light and heavy AA moderate to intense, accurate as to height, but trailing, and did no damage. No interception. (Advon TAF Mission Report 3, 14 Nov. 45.)

15 Nov. 43 MILLE-MAKIN - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron assigned daylight mission against Mille. Three were abortive because of frontal conditions. Five dropped 90 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 4,500 to 5,600 feet, with several hits observed on or near runways. Intense AA damaged two B-24's. Three airplanes dropped 18 x 600-lb. GP bombs on Makin. AA light and inaccurate. (Advon TAF Mission Report 5, 18 Nov. 45.)

JALUIT - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron assigned mission against seaplane base at Jaluit; and seven B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron assigned Jabor Island area.
16 Nov. 43

Right of 451st dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs on target from 5,500 to 8,000 feet. The other two, unable to make bomb run because of the weather, dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on southern tip of Jaluit Atoll. Airplanes of 45d dropped 56 x 500-lb. GP from 12,000 to 15,000 feet in vicinity of shipping in lagoon. AA in accurate, and caused no damage. (Advis 7AF Consolidated Mission Report, 16 Nov. 43.)

16 Nov. 43

KWAJALEIN - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Eil Island. One reached the target and dropped 16 fragmentation clusters from 11,000 feet, with results unobserved. One airplane, turned back by weather, dropped 15 fragmentation clusters on Little Makin from 9,500 feet, results unobserved. One dropped 15 fragmentation clusters on Tarawa from 9,000 feet. Five dropped 45 x 100-lb. demolition bombs and 50 fragmentation clusters on Jaluit from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, destroying one warehouse. They were intercepted by two F6Ts, one of which was damaged. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. (Advis 7AF Mission Report 6, 16 Nov. 43.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Eil Island, Kwaialin. They did not reach target because of weather and dropped 12 x 500-lb. demolition bombs and 45 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters on Eil Island from 10,000 to 11,600 feet, 75 per cent in target. Interception by two float planes. One B-24 had engine shot out. (Ibid.)

MALFAKAF - Nine B-24's of 88th Bomb Squadron at Eil Island staged through Kwajalein to perform daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Tarawa Island. Three were abortive. The remaining six first mistook Ail for Tareo, but realized mistake and went on to Tarawa where because of cloud coverage no bomb run was made. Interception by 12 to 18 Zekes, of which two were shot down, two probably shot down and one was damaged. The B-24's expended 42,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. None of the B-24's was damaged. (Advis 7AF Mission Report 7, 18 Nov. 45.)

17 Nov. 43

TARAWA - Three B-24's of 451st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Eil Island dropped 40 x 100-lb. demolition bombs on runway and barracks from 2,500 feet, in addition to strafing during bomb run. AA meager but accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. (Advis 7 AF Mission Report 10, 20 Nov. 45.)

MILE - Six B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and six of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Mile from Funafuti. Three airplanes were abortive because
17 Nov. 45
(Contd)

of engine trouble. Nine dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 65 x 100-lb.
demolition bombs, with hits on runway and airfield installa-
tions. AA moderate and fairly accurate, causing minor damage
to four B-24's. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 6, 20 Nov. 45.)

MALAGASIP - Nine B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged
thru Baker in daylight bombing and photo mission against
Taros. One was abortive because of gasoline leak. Eight
dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 30 x 20-lb. fragmentation
clusters from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. All of the GP's and 90
per cent of the frags hit the target. Interception by 15 to
18 Zekes. Medium and heavy AA, accurate as to altitude but
trailing. One badly damaged B-24 crash-landed at Baker,
hitting a parked P-40 and completely destroying both. Two
other B-24's were damaged. (Adven 7AF Supplement to Mission
Report 9, 22 Nov. 43.)

Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron arrived at Nanomea,
bringing air echelon to full strength. (History of 27th
Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

18 Nov. 45

MILLE-TARAWA - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of
38th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Wotje from
Nanomea. Weather conditions prevented reaching primary
target. Nineteen B-24's dropped 40 x 500-lb. and 60 x
100-lb. GP bombs and 768 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters on
Mille, 90 per cent on island. AA intense and accurate,
causin minor damage to "several" airplanes. Two B-24's
dropped 500- and 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 12,000
feet, with bombs hitting Betio. Betio appeared badly bomb-
scarred and no activity was apparent. (Adven 7AF Mission
Report 11, 20 Nov. 45.)

19 Nov. 45

TARAWA - Ten B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron, nine of 431st
Bomb Squadron, and one each from Headquarters 11th Bomb
Grup and Headquarters VII Bomber Command, in daylight
bombing and reconnaissance mission over Tarawa. One B-24
abortive because of gasoline leak. Remaining airplanes
dropped 60 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters, 80 per cent in
target; 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent in target; and
160 x 100-lb. GP's, 80 per cent in target. Bombing
altitudes were from 1,500 to 11,000 feet. Intense and
accurate medium and light AA damaged four B-24's, and
caused such extensive damage to a fifth as to cause it to
crash-land at Nanomea. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 12,
22 Nov. 45.)

MAKIN - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and three of 38th
Bomb Squadron, in daylight mission over Makin from Nanomea,
dropped 81 x 500-lb. demolition bombs and 46 x 125-lb.
fragmentation clusters from 10,000 to 10,400 feet, with
19 Nov. 43
(Cont'd)
65 per cent of the dopes and 65 per cent of the frags hitting the target. Light, meager AA caused no damage. One B-24 crashed and burned when landing at base. (Advin 7AF Mission Report 15, 21 Nov. 43.)

21 Nov. 43
NAURU - Four B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron, with two Navy P-47's photo planes, in daylight mission over Nauro from Namsea, dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet, getting hits on boat basin and runway. AA light and inaccurate, causing no damage. (Advan 7AF Mission Report 14, 24 Nov. 43.)

NAURU - Six B-24's of 45th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Nauro from Funafuti. Two abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Four dropped 80 x 100-lb GP bombs from 9,500 to 11,000 feet, 35 per cent hitting runways and installations. Medium and heavy AA inaccurate, causing no damage. (Advan 7AF Mission Report 14A, 22 Nov. 43.)

NAURU - Seven B-24's of 43rd Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Nauro from Funafuti dropped 45 x 500-lb GP bombs from 9,000 to 15,000 feet, of which 54 hit fuel storage and revetment areas. Medium and heavy accurate AA damaged three airplanes. (Advan 7AF Mission Report 14B, 23 Nov. 43.)

23 Nov. 43
JALUIT - Eight B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Jaluit from Hennfene. Two abortive due to mechanical malfunctions. Six dropped 42 x 500-lb GP bombs from 11,000 feet, with only six bombs hitting target. Meager, inaccurate AA caused minor damage to two B-24's. Three Zekes were seen airborne over target, but there was no interception. (Advan 7AF Mission Report 15, 26 Nov. 43.)

24 Nov. 43
MILLE - Eleven B-24's of 28th Bomb Squadron, with four B-24's from 592d Bomb Squadron attached, staged through Baker to drop 60 x 100-lb. and 42 x 500-lb GP bombs on Mille from 11,000 to 12,000 feet. Twenty-two of the 500's and nine of the 100's were seen to hit the target. Interception by 8 to 12 Zekes, Hampes, and Tony's, the pilots of which seemed inexperienced and unaggressive. Two Zekes were shot down and two were probably shot down. AA was meager. One B-24 was damaged by fighter fire. (Advan 7AF Mission Report 16, 24 Nov. 43.)

Ground echelon of 30th Bomb Group and 38th Bomb Squadron arrived at Namsea. An advance party from the 30th Bomb Group had arrived 1 Nov. 43. (History of 30th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 38th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)
26 Nov. 43 MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 12 of 58th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Taroa from Manus. Two were abortive, one of which never returned. Twenty dropped 20 x 500-lb. and 225 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,500 feet, 80 per cent in hangar area and runways adjacent thereto. AA moderate, inaccurate, and trailing. Two Zeke's intercepted the 27th, which was the first squadron over the target. One Zeke was probably destroyed. (Adon 7AF Mission Report 17, 26 Nov. 43.)

27 Nov. 43 MILE - Nine B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mille from Mokufa. One abortive due to mechanical malfunctions. Eight dropped 196 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 12,500 feet, with 186 hitting the island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One Zeke made one pass at a B-24 but did no damage. (Adon 7AF Mission Report 19, 28 Nov. 43.)

28 Nov. 43 MAURU - Eight B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and three of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Muru from Manus. Dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 240 x 100-lb. GP bombs. Damage was undetermined because of clouds. AA meager but accurate, causing minor damage to three B-24's. (Adon 7AF Mission Report 19, 29 Nov. 43.)

The 45th Fighter Squadron arrived at Manus, having departed Baker on 28 Nov. 1943. (History of 45th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

30 Nov. 43 MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 27th Bomb Squadron, accompanied by two Navy PB4Y photo planes, assigned to daylight mission over Maloelap from Manus. None of the airplanes reached the target because of weather conditions. Two B-24's dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on small cargo vessels near Taroa, getting near misses. (Adon 7AF Mission Report 20, 2 Dec. 43.)

MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker in strike against Maloelap. They dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 12,000 feet, of which 64 hit target area in Taroa. Interception by 35 to 50 Zeke's, of which 11 were shot down, nine probably shot down, and four damaged in running attack lasting 35 minutes. AA accurate at height, bursting in front of formation. They also encountered what were thought to be aerial bombs. Three crew members received minor wounds, but none of the B-24's was damaged. (Adon 7AF Supplement to Mission Report 20, 6 Dec. 43.)
1 Dec 43  MILLE - Seven B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight strike against Milne from Funafuti. Three were abortive. Four on individual runs dropped 24 x 500-lb GP bombs from 9,000 to 9,500 feet. Cloud coverage prevented observation of damage. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One B-24 did not return after leaving target. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 21, 2 Dec. 43.)

4 Dec 43  MILLE - Fifty-eight B-24's of VII Bomber Command assigned daylight mission against Milne. Twenty-four aircraft of the 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons took off from Nanumea; but failed to reach target because of front encountered enroute. Remaining 34, consisting of 12 of the 28th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 451st, 8 of the 98th and 4 of the 392d, dropped 450 x 100-lb and 108 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 14,000 feet, 90 per cent in target. AA meager to moderate, and inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to five B-24's. Distance flown: 1,800 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 25, 7 Dec. 43.)

NAURU - Eight B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron accompanied by one Navy PB4Y photo plane, in daylight mission against Nauru from Funafuti, dropped 46 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 15,000 feet, with all bombs hitting on or near assigned targets. One large fire was visible for 60 to 75 miles at 10,000 feet. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate AA caused minor damage to one B-24. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 25, 5 Dec. 45.)

7 Dec 45  MALOELAP - Eight B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in dawn mission over Taroa from Hulufalau. Two failed to reach the target. Six dropped 58 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 14,000 feet, with 14 hitting island. AA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by 8 to 10 Zeke's which made 25 to 30 passes. One Zeke was shot down, two were probably shot down, and one was possibly damaged in a 24-minute fight. Two B-24's were damaged. One of the B-24's, failing to reach the target, dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Milne from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on the island. AA intense and accurate as to altitude, but trailing. The 98th Bomb Squadron was scheduled to participate in this strike, but did not take off from Baker because of weather conditions there. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 24A, 8 Dec. 45.)

8 Dec 45  MILLE - Eleven B-24's of 25th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker for a daylight strike at Maloelap. Because of the weather and approaching darkness, it was decided to strike the alternate target, Milne, where 318 x 100-lb. GP bombs were dropped from 7,000 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on the island. AA intense and accurate, and showed an increase
8 Dec. 45
(Contd)
in amount and efficiency since previous mission. Inter-
ception by 10 to 12 Zekes, Hamps, and Oscars, which were
airborne when formation arrived at target, and which made
aggressive passes before, during, and after bomb runs.
Aerial bombs were dropped. Four B-24's were damaged. The
bombers expended 12,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. No
fighters were destroyed. Distance flown: 2,794 miles.

JALUIT - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eleven of
38th Bomb Squadron in mission against Emidj from Nanomea.
One airplane could not get bomb-bay doors open over Emidj,
therefore dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Pinglap. Twenty-
one B-24's dropped 80 x 500-lb. and 530 x 100-lb. GP bombs on
Emidj, 85 per cent in target areas. A large fire was started
in hangar area. AA meager to moderate, and accurate as to
height, but trailing. None of the B-24's was damaged.
(P/I VII BC Mission Report 25, 9 Dec. 45.)

9 Dec. 45
MILLS - Ten B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron and nine of 431st
Bomb Squadron in mission against Mills from Funafuti dropped
60 x 500-lb. and 255 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to
10,200 feet, 85 per cent in or near target areas. AA moderate
and inaccurate. Six Zekes intercepted first planes over
target, and by time last planes were over, the number had
increased to 15. Aerial bombs were dropped. Five Zekes were
destroyed. Six B-24's received minor damage. (P/I VII BC
Mission Report 26, 11 Dec. 45.)

12 Dec. 45
JALUIT - Thirty-nine B-24's of 27th, 38th, 42d, and 98th Bomb
Squadrons in daylight strike at Jaluit from Funafuti,
Nukufetau, and Nanomea. Fourteen did not reach the target
because of weather or mechanical difficulties. Twenty-
five dropped 420 x 100-lb., 61 x 500-lb., and 4 x 1,000-lb.
GP bombs from 300 to 15,000 feet. Results were undetermined,
even though most of the bombs probably fell on Emidj where fires
were started and several gun positions were silenced by low-
level attacks and strafing. AA moderate and fairly accurate,
damaging two B-24's. (P/I VII BC Mission Report 29,
14 Dec. 45.)

15 Dec. 45
NOTJE - Eleven B-24's of 382d Bomb Squadron assigned daylight
attack on Tareo from Canton. One was abortive because of
excessive gas consumption. Ten attacked the alternate target
of Notje, dropping 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to
10,000 feet, 95 per cent in target areas. AA meager and inaccurate.
One B-24 was damaged by AA or by a bomb which exploded several
hundred feet below the airplane after release. (P/I VII BC
Mission Report 30, 17 Dec. 45.)

14 Dec. 45
JALOELAP - Eleven B-24's of the 451st Bomb Squadron, and
seven of the 42d Bomb Squadron with three of the 98th
attached, staged through Nanomea for daylight strike against
14 Dec. 43 Taroa. Two failed to take off from the staging base, and two were abortive. Sixteen dropped 355 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 5,000 to 14,000 feet, 90 per cent on island, starting numerous fires. One airplane salvaged its load of 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs in water. AA meager to moderate, and inaccurate. Interception by 15 fighters, mostly Zekes, of which two were destroyed, four were probably destroyed, and seven were damaged. Two B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 984, 2,585 statute miles; 42d and 431st, 2,705 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 52, 17 Dec. 43.)

Pilots and aircrews (P-39's) of 72d Fighter Squadron arrived at Makin aboard an aircraft carrier. (History of 72d Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

15 Dec. 43 NOTJE - Eleven B-24's of 28th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baco on mission against Notje. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 80 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,000 to 18,000 feet, with 50 per cent hitting within 1,000 feet of aiming point. AA moderate and inaccurate. One B-24 was slightly damaged. Distance flown: 3,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 31, 17 Dec. 43.)

MALCOLAP - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 58th Bomb Squadron in strike at Taroa from Sanmara. One airplane was abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. One jettisoned bombs after being hit at start of bomb run, and another jettisoned bombs in order to be able to protect it. Total bomb load of 22 planes was: 420 x 100-lb. and 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs. Three actually dropped over island were 80 per cent in the target. Bombing runs were made from 5,500 to 8,600 feet. Interception by 15 to 50 Zekes and Hampas, with fight beginning as far as 10 miles from target. Enemy dropped 40 to 50 aerial bombs. Two enemy planes were destroyed, two probably destroyed, and seven damaged. Seven B-24's were damaged, and one was destroyed. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 35, 17 Dec. 45.)

17 Dec. 43 Mille - Eleven B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron, and 10 of 98th Bomb Squadron with one of 42d attached, assigned raid on Malolop. Aircrews of 98th and 42d Bomb Squadrons took off in unfavorable weather. As the weather continued unfavorable, the 431st Bomb Squadron did not take off and the 98th was recalled. One airplane did not hear recall and went to alternate target, Mille, to drop 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs on runway from 20,000 feet. No AA. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 55, 21 Dec. 43.)
17 Dec. 43

The 41st Bomb Group (M) arrived at Tarawa from Oahu.

(History of 41st Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

Following arrived at Makin; ground echelon of 46th Fighter Squadron and 15 new A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron. These airplanes were sent from Oahu. The air echelon of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron had arrived at Makin from Canton by 22 Dec. 43. (History of 46th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 531st Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

18 Dec. 43

MILLE - Fifteen B-24's took off from Hanama to attack Maloelap in attempt to complete mission of the previous day. One was abortive because of supercharger trouble. Remaining 14 found Maloelap closed in and went to Mille to drop 286 x 100-lb. and 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 1,600 to 12,000 feet. None of the 500-lb. bombs hit the target, but all except 15 of the 100-lb. bombs hit. AA intense and accurate. Interception by 6 to 8 Zekas, Hamps, and Tonys, which dropped aerial bombs. One Tony destroyed. Seven B-24's were damaged, 11 crew members wounded, and one killed. One of the damaged B-24's crashed on landing. (P/2 VII FG Mission Report 55, 21 Dec. 43.)

MILLE - Thirteen A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in mission against buried-stores area at Mille. One abortive because of engine trouble. Twelve dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs, hitting runway, oil and ammunition storage areas. The A-24's were escorted by nine P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and seven of 46th Fighter Squadron. Three of the 72d abortive because of engine trouble. Remaining six maintained close cover for the A-24's, expending 4,000 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition strafing runways from 1,000 feet, and damaging 2 to 3 Zekas on the ground. Airplanes of the 46th Fighter Squadron strafed gun positions and runways with 122 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition. One P-39 was lost operationally. Distance flown: 485 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 551-1, 18 Dec. 43; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

MILLE - Eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mille expended 2,051 rounds of .50-cal. and 46 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. Two P-39's were abortive because of engine trouble. Six Zekas were destroyed and three Zekas and one medium bomber were damaged on the ground. Weager and inaccurate AA caused minor damage to two P-39's. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)
18 Dec. 45

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39s of 72d Fighter Squadron went up to intercept enemy bombers over Makin but made no contact with enemy. (Ibid.)

Ground echelon of 72d Fighter Squadron arrived at Makin from Oahu. (History of 72d Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

19 Dec. 45

MILLS - Fourteen P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mills expended 5,328 rounds of .50-cal. and 92 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, destroying three Zeke's and one bomber on the ground, and probably igniting an oil dump. One P-39 shot down by fairly intense AA, and two P-39's were damaged. Another P-39 crashed on return to Makin. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

MILLS-MALCEPAL - The 27th, 35th, and 26th Bomb Squadrons assigned daylight attack on Malcepal. Nineteen B-24's, consisting of 10 of 27th and nine of 35th, encountered tropical front enroute to target, and bombed Mills with 537 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 80 per cent on the island. AA meager and inaccurate. One Zeke intercepted after planes left the target, dropping two phosphorous bombs which caused minor damage to one B-24. Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron reached Malcepal. One did not drop bombs because of rack malfunctions; Ten dropped 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with 29 hits observed. AA accurate and intense. Interception by 25 to 30 Zeke's, Hamps, and Oscars, which made approximately 50 shooting passes and dropped aerial bombs in a fight lasting 40 minutes. Seven Zeke's were probably destroyed and five were damaged. Ten B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 3,027 statute miles. (2/5 VII BC Mission Report 38, 22 Dec. 45.)

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron went up to intercept enemy bombers over Makin, expended 346 rounds of .50-cal. and 11 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, with no results. Enemy planes jettisoned bombs in ocean. Searchlights persisted in picking up P-39's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

20 Dec. 45

MALCEPAL - Eleven B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker for daylight strike against Taros. One B-24 crashed at Baker and another could not take off because bomb-bay doors would not close. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA intense and accurate, damaging all of the B-24's and shooting down two. Interception at end of bomb run by
20 to 25 Zekes, with some possible Tony's and Hamps, of which three were destroyed, four probably destroyed, and nine damaged. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 37, 22 Dec. 43.)

MALKOALAP - Eight B-24's of 42nd Bomb Squadron, with one from 431st Bomb Squadron attached, took off from Hanneka for daylight strike on Taror. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 47 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 12,500 feet, 70 per cent on island. AA intense and accurate. Interception by approximately 30 Zekes at end of bomb run. Fighters were airborne and waiting for formation to get through AA fire. Enemy pilots were the most aggressive the crews had encountered. Seven Zekes were destroyed, and four were probably destroyed. One B-24 was down in water because of flak damage, and another made a crash-landing at Taror for the same reason. Five other B-24's were damaged. Distance Flown: 2,075 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Supplement to Mission Report 37, 22 Dec. 43.)

MILE - Twelve P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille, primarily to observe shipping. No shipping sighted. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 19-21 Dec. 43.)

ENERGY ACTION - Three P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron went up to intercept enemy bombers over Makin, patrolled over island at 29,000 feet, but made no contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

21 Dec. 43

WNJALAEIN - Four B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and four of 38th Bomb Squadron escorted four Navy FB41 photo planes over WNJalaein from Hanneka. One hundred twenty 100-lb GP bombs were dropped as follows: 45 on Roi, 16 on Emnabing, 16 on WNJalaein Island, 15 on shipping, 15 in water, and 15 jettisoned. Interception by eight Zekes and one probable Tony. One Zeko was damaged. AA meager and caused no damage. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (P/E VII BC, Mission Report 38, 27 Dec. 43.)

JALUIJ - Twelve A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron accompanied by 6 SHFs and 16 FG's, attacked shipping and installations at Eadig Island. Three A-24's dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping, leaving one 7,000-ton cargo vessel sinking. Nine A-24's dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on hangar line, damaging both hangars and seaplane base, and starting fire near center of island. AA intense but inaccurate from Eadig. Air from ships and island intense and accurate. One A-24 was shot down. Distance flown: 890 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Mission Report 531-2, 21 Dec. 43.)
21 Dec. 45

Mille - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, one of which was abortive, in reconnaissance over Mille for shipping. None was observed. (VII FO Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

Mille - Sixteen P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron strafed fuel dumps, shipping and AA positions at Mille with 5,275 rounds of .50-cal. and 232 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. Four to 6 Zeke's observed airborne. Two dropped phosphorous bombs, but did no damage. (Ibid.)

22 Dec. 45

Mille - Eleven A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in daylight dive-bombing attack on large cargo vessel in Mille lagoon from Makin. They dropped 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 1,000 to 1,500 feet, 100 per cent on target or within 150 feet of it. Last two planes reported that smoke obscured the ship. One A-24 jettisoned bombs because of release failure. AI ranging to moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two A-24's. The dive bombers were escorted by 16 P-39's and 16 P-6P's. One Zeke was shot down by the P-6P's, one was probably shot down, and one was damaged. The P-39's were not intercepted. On pull-out, all A-24's strafed gun positions and barracks with .50-cal. and .50-cal. ammunition. (P/F VII BC Mission Report 551-4, 24 Dec. 45.)

Mille - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed shipping in the lagoon. (VII FO Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

Ground echelon of 48th-Bomb Squadron arrived at Aparma, having departed Oahu 3 Dec. 1943. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

23 Dec. 45

Mille - Ten A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron escorted by 29 P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in daylight dive-bombing attack on shipping at Mille. Four A-24's dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on cargo vessel in lagoon, with hits and near misses. Six dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shore installations at Mille, with probable hits on AW positions. The airplanes dived from 10,000 feet and pulled out at 1,000 feet. AW moderate but trailing. Twelve of the P-39's provided high cover and eight provided low cover for the formation. Interception by 6 to 7 Zeke's, of which two were destroyed and one was damaged. The A-24's expended 900 rounds of .50-cal. and 2,000 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. The P-39's expended 1,755 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 81 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. (P/F VII BC Mission Report 551-4, 24 Dec. 45; VII FO Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)
MILLE - Four P-39’s of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille after A-24 attack observed no AA, no aircraft, and no shipping. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

KWAJALEIN - Eleven B-24’s of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa from Marcus for strikes on Kwajalein. They dropped 157 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 14,600 feet on shipping in harbor and on shore installations on Kwajalein Island. One medium cargo vessel was observed sinking, and a direct hit was scored on large fuel dump from which smoke was visible for 35 miles at 12,000 feet. AA meager to moderate, and accurate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to two B-24’s. (F/S VII BG Mission Report 40, 24 Dec. 45.)

WOTJE-MALCEPAP - Nine B-24’s of 26th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker for daylight strike against Wotje. Although the atoll was closed in, five airplanes dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 14,000 to 15,000 feet, 80 per cent in or near the target, AA moderate and fairly accurate. The first and second flights then flew to Malecap and the remaining four airplanes dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 14,000 to 15,000 feet, 100 per cent on the target. AA intense and accurate. The second flight became separated from the first and was intercepted by about 25 to 30 Zeke’s, Oscars, and Tonyos. In a battle lasting approximately 35 minutes, the fighters dropped 12 to 15 aerial bombs. One Tony and three Zeke’s were destroyed, four Zeke’s were probably destroyed, and seven were damaged. Three B-24’s were damaged, one crew member was killed, and five were injured. Distance flown: 3,100 statute miles. (F/S VII BG Mission Report 59, 27 Dec. 45.)

The 47th Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, arrived at Apanama, having departed Oahu 5 Dec. 1943. (History of 47th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

25-26 Dec. 43

Hostile Action - Eighteen P-39’s of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons airborne over Makin for 10-hour period to intercept enemy bombers. They expended 566 rounds of .50-cal. and 13 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, shooting down two Vals. One P-39 was lost operationally. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

24 Dec. 43

WOTJE - Ten B-24’s of 38th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 431st Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa for a daylight strike against Wotje. Two were abortive. Eighteen dropped 216 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 15,000 feet, with 164 hitting the island. Four fires were observed. AA meager and inaccurate.
26 Dec. 45
causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report 41, 27 Dec. 45.)

Ground echelons of the 396th Bomb Squadron and the 820th
Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, arrived at Tarawa, having
departed Oahu 16 Dec. 1943. (History of 396th Bomb Squadron,
to 31 Mar. 44; History of 820th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

25 Dec. 45
MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron;
escorted by 16 P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, conducted
mission against Mille. One A-24 was abortive because of
malfunction of bomb release. Ten dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP
bombs, 25 of which hit runway, ammunition storage area, and
an AA position. AA barrage and trailing. AA intense. Two
A-24's received minor damage. Six P-39's were abortive.
The remainder expended 552 rounds of .50-cal. and 35 rounds
of 37-mm. ammunition. None of the P-39's was damaged.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-5, 1 Jan. 44; VII BC Pro-
visional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

ENEMY ACTION - Twenty-four P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter
Squadrons, up to intercept 12 Zekes flying over Makin,
explored 118 rounds of .50-cal. and 10 rounds of 37-mm.
ammunition. One P-39 was damaged. (VII BC Provisional
Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Air echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, having
departed Oahu on 23 Dec. 1943. (History of 820th Bomb
Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

26 Dec. 45
WOTJE-MILLE - Eighteen B-24's of 30th Bomb Group staged
through Tarawa for raid on Wotje. One abortive because of
losing formation. Sixteen reached primary target and
dropped 141 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje, 24 on first island
north of Wotje, and 24 on small vessels in lagoon. One
B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille, results
unobserved. AA at Wotje moderate and accurate. Interception
at Wotje by 6 to 8 Zekes, of which one was destroyed and two
were damaged. Two B-24's were shot down by Zekes and one
was badly damaged. Distance flown: 2,242 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report 42, 29 Dec. 45.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron made recon-
nnaissance of Mille from 15,000 to 24,000 feet. No shipping,
aircraft, or AA observed. (VII BC Provisional Group
Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

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Mille - Four P-39's of 73d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mille expended 651 rounds of .50-cal. and 25 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, with results unobserved. Meager AA caused no damage. (Ibid.)

The 42d Bomb Squadron departed Fumfuti for return to Oahu. (History of 42d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

27 Dec. 43

Mille - Four P-39's of 73d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed no aircraft or activity. Runways appeared to be in good condition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Four P-39's of 73d Fighter Squadron up over Makin to intercept enemy bombers. They got only fleeting glimpses of the enemy. (Ibid.)

Air echelon of 46th Fighter Squadron moved from Canton to Makin. (History of 46th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

28 Dec. 43

Mille - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa rendezvoused with 12 P-39's of 73d Fighter Squadron at Makin for attack on Mille. The B-25's dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 33 parachute fragmentation clusters, in addition to firing 108 x 75-mm. shells, 60 per cent of which hit target area. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. Two B-25's were damaged. The P-39's flew at 600 feet in close formation, because of poor visibility. They expended an unreported amount of ammunition in strafing, silencing one gun position. Distance flown: 550 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 44, 1 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Mille - Twenty-five A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 24 P-39's of 46th and 73d Fighter Squadrons, conducted mission against Mille. Seven A-24's were abortive because of a front encountered 100 miles from base. Eighteen dropped 32 x 500-lb. and 22 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 5,000 to 5,300 feet, with hits on or near gun emplacements and on runways. Weather conditions obscured results of most bombs. AA meager to moderate and trailing. Three A-24's received minor damage. Four P-39's returned with the abortive A-24's. The remainder expended 1,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 551-6, 5 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Maloslap - Ten B-24's of 28th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 431st Bomb Squadron, and nine of 35th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Maloslap. Seventeen were abortive because of weather.
28 Dec. 43

Conditions. Five dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on barracks, oil storage, and shop areas at Taroe, 100 per cent in target. Five dropped 60 x 500-lb. GPs on Derrit Island, Majuro, 42 in target area. Two dropped 24 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille. Intense, inexact AA at Mille. Interception by 35 to 40 Zekes over Maloelap, and by four Zekes and two Tonsas at Majuro. Seven enemy fighters were destroyed, eight probably destroyed, and six damaged. One B-24 was destroyed, and one missing. One B-24 received major damage and eight minor damage. Distance flown: 3,080 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 45, 3 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP - Eight B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker for attack on Taroe. Two were abortive. Three dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs in target area, and three jettisoned 18 x 500-lb. GPs. Interception by 10 to 12 Zekes, of which one was destroyed, and three were probably destroyed. AA moderate and inaccurate. Four B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 3,000 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 45, 11 Jan. 44.)

29 Dec. 43

MILLE - Eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, in two flights of four each, flew reconnaissance missions over Mille, observing no activity at either time. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

30 Dec. 43

KWAJALEIN - Eighteen B-24's of 30th Bomb Group staged through Taroe for attack on Kawajalein. One was abortive because of instrument failure in front from weather. Two dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping at Kawajalein, getting near-misses. Four dropped 48 x 500-lb. GPs on Ebon Island, 60 per cent in target area. Eleven dropped 132 x 500-lb. GPs on Bige, which was mistaken for Ebon, 50 per cent in target. AA from shore moderate and inaccurate, from naval vessels intense and accurate. One B-24 received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 45, 5 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine B-25's of 830th Bomb Squadron in daylight, low-level mission against Jaluit from Taroe. Escort of eight P-39's lost contact enroute. The B-25's dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 15 x 100-lb. parachute fragmentation clusters, in addition to firing 91 x 76-mm. shells. AA scattered and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 46, 1 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-five A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 24 P-39's of 72d and 46th Fighter Squadrons, conducted daylight dive-bombing attack against Mille from Mokin. The A-24's dropped 55 x 500-lb. and 22 x 100-lb.
30 Dec. 43 (Contd)  GP bombs from 1,500 to 2,000 feet, with 66 hits in targets areas. AA after dives intense, but trailing. One 4-24 got 20-mm. hole in right wing tip. The P-39's expended 1,021 rounds of .50 cal. and 53 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, and encountered no AA. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 531-7, 14 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

31 Dec. 43  MILLE - Four P-39's assigned to reconnaissance over Mille returned abortive twice, once because of transmitter trouble, and once because of the weather. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)
1 Jan. 44

MILLE - Four P-39's of 76th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance mission over Mille expended no ammunition. Observed two small boats in lagoon. Meager AA accurate as to altitude, but trailing. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44)

MILLE - Sixteen P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing mission over Mille expended 3,830 rounds of .50-cal. and 159 rounds of 37-mm ammunition. One small boat was severely damaged, and one was left in sinking condition. Meager AA caused no damage. (Ibid.)

2 Jan. 44

MALCEPAP - Nine B-24's of the 431st Bomb Squadron and seven of the 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa in daylight attack on shipping at Wotje. Two B-24's were abortive. The remainder did not sight shipping, but instead of attacking Wotje, the secondary target, they attacked Taroa, dropping 124 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 16,700 to 17,500 feet. Reason for attacking Taroa unknown, because flight leader was lost. AA intense and accurate. The 431st Squadron was intercepted by 40 fighters, mostly Zekes, with some Hamps and Tonys. The 98th was intercepted by 20 to 30 Zekes, plus a few Tonys. In a running fight lasting approximately 50 minutes, 14 fighters were destroyed, 11 were probably destroyed, and 8 were damaged. Two B-24's crashed near the target, and one crash-landed at Arno Atoll. Four B-24's sustained major damage, and six, minor damage. Distance flown: 1,380 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Consolidated Mission Report 47, 7 Jan. 44)

JALUIT - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight, low-level mission against Jaluit from Tarawa. Heavy showers prevented all planes from getting over the target. Eight fired about 110 rounds of 75-mm ammunition and five dropped 17 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet, with hits on Enybor, Emidj, and Jabor. AA and AAA meager, inaccurate and trailing. However, one B-25 was destroyed over target when its right wing fell off and it exploded, probably as a result of AA fire, and two other airplanes received minor damage from AA. Distance flown: 800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 48-A, 4 Jan. 44)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing mission over Mille expended 670 rounds of .50-cal. and 43 rounds of 37-mm ammunition, getting further hits on boats hit by previous strikes. No AA. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 76th Fighter Squadron assigned reconnaissance mission over Mille were abortive because of the weather. (Ibid.)
3 Jan. 44  MILLE - Twenty-four A-24's of 531st Fighter Bomber Squadron, escorted by 24 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadron, in daylight dive-bombing mission over Mille from Makin dropped 18 x 100-lb., 45 x 500-lb., and 9 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 85 per cent in target area, with direct hits on heavy AA positions and on radio position. The pull-out was from 5,000 to 9,000 feet, with pull-out at 2,000 feet. Two of the P-39's were abortive. Remainder expended 1,700 rounds of .50-cal. and 120 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, damaging one twin-engine and two single-engine planes on the ground. Black smoke noted in oil storage areas. AA and AW meager to moderate, and trailing. One P-39 lost its tail in dive and crashed. One A-24 sustained minor damage. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-8, 21 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille, expended no ammunition. Observed one twin-engine plane on the ground. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

ENEMY ACTION - Ten P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron up at various times during day to intercept enemy planes over Makin, but at no time did they make contact. (Ibid.)

5 Jan. 44  JALuit - Eighteen B-26's of the 27th and 35th Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarma to drop 355 x 5 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters and 100 x 5 x 4-lb. incendiary clusters on Emilij from 9,300 to 11,000 feet, 70 per cent in target areas. AA meager to moderate and generally inaccurate. No interception. Distance flown: 1,840 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 49, 10 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and four of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille at two different times were unable to observe the target because of cloud coverage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

The ground echelon of the 50th Bomb Group arrived at Apanama, having departed New York, 2 January 1944. Rear echelon of 46th Fighter Group arrived at Apanama. (History of the 50th Bomb Group to 51 Mar. 44; History of 46th Fighter Squadron to 51 Mar. 44.)

5 Jan. 44  Malcelap - Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin for attack on shipping at Malcelap. Shipping not sighted because of weather. All planes returned to base with bombs. Distance flown: 1,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 51, 7 Jan. 44.)
5 Jan. 44 (Contd) Air echelon of 30th Bomb Group departed Nanmea and arrived at Apamena on this date on 6 January 1944. (History of 30th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

6 Jan. 44 MILLE — Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. No shipping noted. Two clearings observed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

7 Jan. 44 MALCEAP-WOTJE — Fourteen B-24's of 26th and 98th Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in night mission against Makelap. Six dropped 233 x 100-lb. GP bombs and two photo flash bombs on Taroa from 4,200 to 10,300 feet, 100 per cent on island, starting numerous fires and explosions. Eight dropped 307 x 100-lb. GP bombs and three photo flash bombs on Wotje from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 94 per cent on island. AA over Taroa, meager and inaccurate. No AA over Wotje. Distance flown: 2,813 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 50, 11 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT — Twenty-two A-20's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 11 Marine F6F's, in daylight mission from Makelap dropped 35 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emdji, diving from 9,000 to 9,500 feet and pulling out from 900 to 3,000 feet. Ninety per cent of the bombs hit target areas, with direct hits on administrative building, oil storage areas, and AA positions. AA intense and accurate as to height. One A-20 was slightly damaged. The escorting F6F's strafed the hangar areas. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-9, 7 Jan. 44.)

MILLE — Four P-39's of 724 Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. Dense rain clouds obscured target and made observation impossible. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

8 Jan. 44 WOTJE — Eighteen B-24's of the 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in mission against Wotje. Three were abortive. The remainder dropped 500-lb. GP bombs as follows: 12 on shipping in Wotje harbor, 48 on northwest end of Wotje Island, 12 on Neko Island, 24 on Taroa (Makelap), 48 on Emdji (Jaluit), 12 on shipping in Likiep lagoon, and 12 on southernmost island of Eriku Atoll. AA from Wotje and Emdji very inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,240 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 52, 13 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT — Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping at Jaluit from Tarawa. One was abortive. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on two 100-foot vessels in lagoon from 300 to 500 feet, getting two near-misses. In addition they fired 15 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition at shore gun emplacements. AA and AW intense and accurate, causing minor damage to both planes. Distance flown: 650 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Unnumbered B-25 Mission, 10 Jan. 44.)
MELLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Melle observed three to seven aircraft, but believed them to be dummies. No AA. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-15 Jan. 44.)

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron up to intercept two flights of enemy bombers over Makin, but made no contact. (Ibid.)

MELLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron expended 50 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and dropped 2 x 500-lb. bombs in dive-bombing attack on Melle, getting hits on fuel storage area. This was the first time a P-39 was used to carry 2 x 500-lb. bombs and a 540-lb. belly tank to a target over 200 miles of water. One P-39 was lost operationally, although the pilot bailed out. P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons flew 28 sorties in connection with the rescue of the pilot. (Ibid.)

The ground echelon of the 592d Bomb Squadron arrived at Aparana, having departed Canton on 5 January 1944. (History of 592d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

MALOEAP-MELLE - Sixteen B-24's of the 26th and 451st Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in night strike on Tarawa. They dropped 608 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 10,000 feet, 60 per cent on the island, starting several fires which were visible for 35 miles at 9,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 2,521 statute miles. Nine B-24's of 592d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker, also in night strike on Tarawa. Fire were abortive. The remainder, because of cloud coverage, struck Melle instead of Tarawa, dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP's from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, with results unobserved. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 2,560 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 54, 17 Jan. 44.)

MALOEAP - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping at Maloeap from Tarawa dropped 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet, and fired 151 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition, plus .50-cal. machine guns. Hits were scored on one 5,000-ton cargo vessel which broke in two, on a destroyer which stopped firing, a 200-ton sailboat which sank, a 500-foot cargo carrier, and a 100-foot vessel. Other bombs fell on Tjen, Gijihal, Allot, and Tar, causing fires. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by eight Zeke's, one possible Tony, three of which were damaged. Two B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,120 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 55, 13 Jan. 44.)

MELLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in dive-bombing, strafing, and reconnaissance mission over Melle dropped 2 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 442 rounds of .50-cal. and 18 rounds
12 Jan. 44
MILLS - Twenty-one A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 24 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, in attack on Mille from Makin. They dropped 28,000 lbs. of GP bombs on North Tip, with push-over from 10,000 feet, and pull-out at 1,600 to 2,800 feet. Eighty per cent of the bombs hit target area. One fire was visible for 10 miles. Four of the P-39's were abortive. Remainder expended 140 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate to intense and accurate as to height, but trailing. One A-24 was slightly damaged. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 551-10, 14 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

18 Jan. 44
WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 220th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping from Tarawa dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs and fired 63 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. Thirteen bombs fell on shipping with results largely undetermined. Remainder fell on Wotje airfield. AA intense and accurate, causing damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 65, 16 Jan. 44.)

MILLS - Twenty-one A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 16 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, in mission against Mills from Makin. They dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 36 x 500-lb., and 13 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent on target area. Dives begun at 10,000 feet, pull-outs at 1,600 to 2,000 feet. Two fires in dock area gave off smoke visible for 10 miles. The P-39's expended 100 rounds of .50-cal. and three rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. One A-24 was slightly damaged. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 551-11, 16 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

14 Jan. 44
KWAJALEIN - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and three of 36th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa in night strike on Kwaialin. They dropped 40 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Namur and 20 on Roi; 140 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Namur, 20 on Roi, and 20 on Enewbirr. Bomb runs were made from 400 to 12,000 feet. Large fires and explosions were observed on Roi.

16 Jan. 44
MILLS - Twelve P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in strafing mission over Mills. Two were abortive. Remainder: strafed beached boat with 205 rounds of .50-cal. and 51 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. No. AA. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)
14 Jan. 44
(Contd)
and Noumea. AA meager and inaccurate, causing minor damage
to one B-24. Distance flown: 2,418 statute miles. (P/E
VII BC Mission Report 55, 18 Jan. 44.)

WEJEB - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight
mission against shipping at Wotje dropped 7 x 500-lb. GP
bombs on three cargo vessels in lagoon and 5 x 500-lb. GPs
on Wotje airfield from 60 feet. One cargo vessel was probably
sunk, and another was hit. Runways hit with bombs and 19
rounds of 57-mm. and 3,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition.
AW intense and accurate, damaging two B-25's. Distance flown:
1,175 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 56-A,
16 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance
over Mille and on search for a missing PBY. No sign of PBY
or survivors. No shipping observed. (VII FC Provisional
Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

Air echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron moved from Baker to Aparna,
and forward echelon of 45th Fighter Squadron arrived at Makin
from Nanmen. (History of 43th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44;
History of 45th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

15 Jan. 44
MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on
shipping at Maloelap dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping,
with one 100-foot cargo vessel being hit amidships and
exploding, and one barge damaged. In addition, they dropped
28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shore installations, with bombs
hitting runways and medium bombers parked at north end of the
field. Bombing altitude was 50 feet. Approximately 50 enemy
aircraft were airborne by time formation left the target.
Betty's dropped phosphorous bombs. Two Bettys were destroyed
on the ground, and three Zekes were damaged in the air. One
B-25 crashed in water shortly after leaving the target, with
enemy fighters strafing it as it hit the water. Six other
B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance
over Mille. Moderately AA accurate as to altitude, but trailing,
and caused no damage. (VII FC Provisional Group Con-
solidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa,
having departed Funafuti on 16 January 1944; and air echelon
of 396th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa having departed Oahu
on 13 January 1944. (History of 431st Bomb Squadron, to
31 Mar. 44; History of 396th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)
16 Jan. 44

MILLS - Twenty-five A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, and eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mills from Makin dropped 11 x 1,000-lb., 42 x 500-lb., and 22 x 100-lb. GP bombs. Push-over at 10,000 feet; pull-out at 2,000 to 2,500 feet. All but nine bombs hit target area. This was first mission for P-40's. They were escorted by P-39's on way to target, and furnished part of escort for A-24's on way back. They dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs, 100 per cent in target area. P-39's expended 62 rounds of 37-mm. and 3,320 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing. AA moderate to intense, accurate as to height but trailing. Three A-24's received minor damage. Two P-39's of 72d Squadron crashed in sea on return trip. One pilot was lost, and one was rescued by crash boat. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 551-12, 17 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

ENEMY ACTION - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron up on intrusion mission to intercept enemy planes on way to home base, intercepted 12 Bettys over Mills. Expanded 50 rounds of 37-mm. and 875 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Two Bettys destroyed. No damage to P-39's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

ENEMY ACTION - Three P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, one of which was abortive, up to intercept 12 or more unidentified enemy bombers over Makin. They expended 475 rounds of .50-cal. and 15 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, shooting down one Betty. Five additional P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron up to intercept unidentified enemy aircraft over Makin made no contact. (Ibid.)

17 Jan. 44

MILLS - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in attack on Mills from Aomona dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 49 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 40 to 200 feet, 80 per cent in the target, starting large fires, destroying two planes on the ground, and probably destroying another. They also fired 54 rounds of 76-mm. and 6,975 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AN and SA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 978 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 58, 21 Jan. 44.)

MILLS - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance and dive-bombing mission over Mills dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 1,270 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL
18 Jan. 44

MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight, low-level attack on Mille from Apmama dropped 74 x 100-lb. and 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet, 100 per cent in target area, starting large fires and destroying one Zeke on the ground. They also fired 96 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA and SA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to 11 B-25's. Distance flown: 863 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 59; 20 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Twenty-five A-24's of 53rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Jaluit from Makin. The A-24's dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. and 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit Island, with all but nine hitting target areas. Direct hits were scored on oil storage tanks. Push-over from 10,000 feet, and pull-outs from 2,500 to 1,000 feet. The P-40's dive-bombed installations with 16 x 500-lb. bombs and strafed radio station with 2,690 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA and AW intense and accurate. Two A-24's were shot down immediately after pull-outs. Distance flown: 594 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-13, 21 Jan. 44; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

19 Jan. 44

JALUIT - Eight P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron covered PBY in rescue of A-24 crew off Jaluit (see above). Crew rescued. No contact with enemy. Two P-39's were abortive. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Report, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Seventeen B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron, in attack on shipping from Tarawa, sighted no shipping so dropped 96 x 100-lb. and 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 50 to 75 feet, destroying a small building and oil dump, and starting fires in building area. One Tony and one Zeke probably destroyed on ground, and two Zeke's probably damaged on ground. AA moderate to intense, and accurate. Two B-25's were shot down, one B-25 made a belly landing at Makin with left engine shot out, and nine B-25's sustained minor damage. The crew of one of the shot-down B-25's, except the navigator, was rescued by Dumbo. Distance flown: 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 80, 21 Jan. 44.)

The air echelon of the 392d Bomb Squadron moved from Canton to Apmama. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

20 Jan. 44

WOTJE - Eight B-24's of 43rd Bomb Squadron and eight of 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa in night mission against Wotje. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and one because of illness of pilot. Fourteen dropped 497 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotje Island and 10 x 100-lb. GPS on island south of Wotje. Approximately 64 per cent of the bombs dropped hit target areas. One fire at Wotje was visible for 15 miles at 7,500 feet. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-24 failed to return from the mission, cause unknown.
20 Jan. 44  Distance flown: 1,155 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 61, 24 Jan. 44.)

ABAO - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Aparma and six of 580th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa assigned mission against Makin. Primary target not attacked because of weather and navigational difficulties. Ten B-25's were abortive because of weather and inability to get over last-resort target in formation. Eight dropped 65 parafrag clusters on Arno from 50 to 75 feet, and fired 55 rounds of 75-mm., plus an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Results of attack largely unobserved. AW meager and inaccurate. Three B-25's received minor damage, although two of them probably were damaged by the parafrags. Distance flown: 840 to 1,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 62, 24 Jan. 44.)

ALLINGlapalap - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in mission against shipping at Allinglapalap from Tarawa, encountered bad weather and returned abortive. Distance flown: 384 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Report, 23 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in reconnaissance over Jaluit, strafed corvette and schooner with 6,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The corvette was gutted and left burning, and the schooner was considered destroyed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLS - Nine P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission over Mills were abortive because the oil was closed in by weather. They jettisoned their bombs and returned to base. Later in the day four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs on Mills, 100 per cent on target. One P-40 crashed in ocean on return to base. Six P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron covered FBY in rescue of pilot. (Ibid.)

The ground echelons of Headquarters 11th Bomb Group and 98th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, the former having departed Funafuti and the latter Bukufetu on 14 January 1944. The air echelon of the 431st Bomb Squadron moved from Funafuti to Tarawa. (History of 11th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 39th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 431st Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

21 Jan. 44  KWAJALEIN - Eighteen B-24's of 27th and 58th Bomb Squadrons in night strike at Kwajalein from Tarawa. Two crashed on takeoff. Sixteen dropped 360 x 100-lb. frag clusters and 280 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 500 to 11,700 feet, 99 per cent on the target. One hit the attacking FBY at 1,000 level.
drew intense but inaccurate AW and AA. No other AA fire received. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,247 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 83, 26 Jan. 44.)

AUR - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron and one of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group, in daylight attack on Maloelap, bombed AUR by mistake, and dropped 14 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 75 to 100 feet, in addition to strafing with .50-cal. and 75-mm. ammunition. Results of the attack unobserved. SA inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 937 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 84, 27 Jan. 44.)

ARNO - Six B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in mission from Tarawa. Three were abortive because of navigational error. Three dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on ARNO and fired eight rounds of 75-mm. plus an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. No AA. Distance flown: 720 to 820 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 21 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Twenty-three A-24's of 53rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 11 P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron, dropped 37 x 500-lb. and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on oil storage at Jaluit, and gun ammunition storage, and barracks at Emidj. Push-overs 11,000 to 12,000 feet, and pull-outs at 2,000 feet. All of the bombs fell in the target areas. One large fire on Jaluit was visible for 20 miles. The P-40's dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 3,255 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. A corvette was set on fire and a schooner was riddled. AA moderate to intense, causing minor damage to three A-24's. Distance flown: 594 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-14, 22 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-26 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in attack on Mille from Apenana dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 75 feet, 87 per cent on or near target areas. They also fired 52 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA, AW, and SA intense and accurate. One B-25 had hydraulic system shot out and had to make belly landing at base. Two other B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 760 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 85, 24 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. Saw gas truck in front of bunker, thus indicating operational aircraft. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-26 Jan. 44.)
21 Jan. 44
(Contd)

ENEMY ACTION - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron on interception and intruder mission against undetermined number of enemy aircraft between Makin and Mille. No contact. Entire flight was made on instruments. (Ibid.)

22 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, eight of 45th Bomb Squadron, and one of 28th Bomb Squadron in daylight strike on Kwaialai and from Tarawa. One was abortive because of mechanical trouble. Ten dropped 400 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Rei from 16,750 to 13,000 feet, 90 per cent on the target, starting large fires. Seven, because of delay in takeoff, dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP's on Elandj (Jaluit) from 7,600 to 12,000 feet, 95 per cent on island. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP's on Mille from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. No AA at Mille; meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate AA at Elandj, and intense and inaccurate AA at Rei. Interception at Kwaialai by 12 to 15 Zekes and Hamps, airborne when bomb run began. They dropped 5 to 10 aerial bombs. One Zeko was destroyed, and seven were probably destroyed. Five B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 1,110 to 3,200 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 66, 28 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Apamama in daylight attack on Maloelap dropped 35 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 60 to 100 feet, 97 per cent hitting target area on Tjim. Also strafed with 52 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. AN and AA meager and inaccurate. Interception by about 30 Zekes and Hamps, 10 Tony's, two Hates, and two possible Freds. Many shooting passes were made, and aerial bombs were dropped. Also tried to confuse B-25 pilots with radio by asking pilot with English shot out if he knew how to feather his prop, and by telling formation to slow down, etc. Seven Zekes, one Zeko, and one possible Fred definitely destroyed; three Zekes, one Zeko, and one possible Fred probably destroyed; and 12 Zekes damaged. Three B-25's were shot down, and four B-25's were damaged. The crew of one of the destroyed B-25's was rescued. Distance flown: 1,550 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 67, 28 Jan. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping, and 32 x 500-lb. GP's on island, in addition to expending 86 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. A direct hit was scored on cargo vessel, and on runways, seaplane hangar and airfield buildings. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to three B-25's. Distance flown: 1,252 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 68, 25 Jan. 44.)
22 Jan. 44
ARNO-MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance for shipping at Arno and Mille. No shipping observed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

23 Jan. 44
NOTES - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, eight of 38th Bomb Squadron, and eight of 392nd Bomb Squadron in dusk strike against Wotje. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Twenty-four dropped 920 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,200 to 10,000 feet, with 899 hitting installations. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille, 16 on runway and 24 in the water. AA at Wotje moderate to intense, but inaccurate. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 846 to 1,620 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 69, 23-28 Jan. 44.)

MALCELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa and nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Apanama in daylight strike on Malcelap dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on aircraft and air installations at Tarcoa from 25 to 100 feet, and expended 65 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. Seven bombs were dropped on shipping, one on the first un-named island north of Taroa, and two on Reuters. Of those dropped on Taroa, 96 per cent hit on or near target. Two hangars were blown up. AA meager to moderate and accurate. The 396th Squadron was intercepted over the target by 23 to 25 Zeke's and Hamp's, which made approximately 140 passes in a 35-minute attack. The 48th Squadron was intercepted after leaving the target by 25 Zeke's and Hamp's, and were engaged for approximately 25 minutes. Pilots seemed experienced, but not aggressive. Three Zeke's were destroyed, two Hamp's were probably destroyed, and nine Zeke's and Hamp's were damaged. In addition, three Zeke's were destroyed, and two Zeke's and two Betty's were damaged on the ground. One B-25 was forced to make a belly-landing at Makin because of damage, and 11 other B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,075 to 1,150 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 70, 28 Jan. 44.)

SHIPPING - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in mission against medium cargo vessel returned abortive after failing to sight target. Distance flown: 1,383 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Special Report, 24 Jan. 44.)

Air echelons of 26th Bomb Squadron and 98th Bomb Squadron moved from Nukafutau to Tarawa. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 98th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

24 Jan. 44
MALCELAP - Eight B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and six of 98th Bomb Squadron in night strike on Taroa from Tarawa. Twelve dropped 480 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 3,000
24 Jan 44 (Contd.) to 11,000 feet, 98 per cent on land, starting large fires.
One, unable to locate primary target, dropped 40 x 100-lb.
GP's from 6,000 feet; and another due to navigational error dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP's on Wotje from 10,000 feet. AA over Taroa intense and inaccurate. AA
over Wotje meager and inaccurate. No AA at Hille. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 1,285 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 71, 27 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa in
night strike on Taroa. Seven dropped 17 x 500-lb. GP
bombs on Taroa, five on Reuters, and three on slops in
lagoon from 50 to 100 feet. They fired 57 rounds of 75-mm
ammunition at Taroa, 27 rounds at Reuters, and three at the
slopes. Details of attacks by other two airplanes (destroyed)
not reported. Three bombs bracketed sloops. One Betty was
destroyed at Taroa and another damaged. A fire was started
on Reuters, and hits were scored on dispersal and revetment
area at Taroa. AA and SA moderate to intense, inaccurate
accurate. Interception by 30 Zekes and Hamp's, with up
to 60 passes reported. Four aerial bombs were dropped.
One Zeko or Hamp was destroyed, and one Zeko damaged. One
B-25 was forced down in water near target, crew rescued by
Dumbo, and another B-25 crashed in lagoon at Tarawa as
result of damage. Six additional B-25's sustained minor
damage. Distance flown: 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report 72, 27 Jan. 44.)

WOTJE - Eight B-25's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through
Makin to drop 29 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 25 to
200 feet, 19 of which hit target. One hangar was destroyed,
and hits were observed on runways and barracks. The bombers
also expended 45 rounds of 75-mm and an unreported amount
of .50-cal. ammunition. Intense and accurate AA caused
minimal damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 1,065 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 72, Separate Section,
27 Jan. 44.)

HILLE - Twenty-four A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron,
escorted by seven P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron and
12 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, in attack on
Hille from Makin dropped 51 x 500-lb. and 18 x 100-lb. GP
bombs on storage area, barracks, and gun positions, diving
from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. Ninety-five per cent of the
bombs hit the targets. One Zeko was probably destroyed
on the ground. AA meager and inaccurate. AN moderate and
trailigging. A three A-24's sustained slight damage. The
escorting fighters expended 23 rounds of 27-mm and 4,000
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Distance flown: 470 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 551-L5, 27 Jan. 44.)
26 Jan. 44  VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

Ground echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, having departed Nukufetau on 20 January 1944. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

25 Jan. 44  KWAJALEIN - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 392d Bomb Squadron in Cuck attack on Kwajalein dropped 720 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,400 feet, 95 per cent on target area on Kwajalein Island, with hits on AA positions and runways. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 1,051-1,405 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 73, 29 Jan. 44.)

 MILLE - Twenty-four A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and four of 48th Fighter Squadron, in attack on gun positions on Mille from Hekin. One A-24 was abortive because of engine trouble. Twenty-three dropped 50 x 500-lb. and 16 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,400 to 10,000 feet, 95 per cent in targets. The P-39's expended 51 rounds of 37-mm. and 500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Smoke from fires was visible from 25 miles at 500 feet. AA reported as moderate and inaccurate, but four A-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 551-16, 27 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

AILINGILAPALAP - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in mission against shipping reported in lagoon at Ailinglapalap were abortive because of frontal activity. Distance flown: 1,015 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 74, 27 Jan. 44.)

MALONILAP - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in mission against Tarawa from Tarawa dropped 22 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet on Tarawa, and two on medium transport tied up at pier. Large fires were started on airfield. AA intense but inaccurate. Interception by 30 to 35 Zekes and Hamps who made approximately 187 passes during 55 minutes of combat. Eight to ten aerial bombs were dropped. One Zeko was destroyed, three were probably destroyed, and four were damaged. One B-25 received major damage and five received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,017 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 74, 29 Jan. 44.)

RESCUE - Sixteen P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron in search for crew of B-25 forced down near Arno on 24 January. Four P-39's of 48th Fighter Squadron covered-rescue of crew by FB's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)
26 Jan. 44
MALGEAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight
attack on Malgeap from Makin dropped 2 x 100-lb. and
2 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 80 to 200 feet over Tarawa, first
small island north of Tarawa, and on Reuters, in addition
to firing 58 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of
.50-cal. ammunition. One large building, the control tower,
and at least two small buildings were destroyed. Large
fires were visible in the dispersal areas. AA and SA
moderate and accurate. Interception by 18 to 25 Zekes and
possible Freys. Aerial bombs dropped. Pilots experienced
and apparently more aggressive than those formerly
encountered. Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron met
the formation over Aur, 30 miles south of Malgeap, and
drove off the enemy fighters. The P-40's expended 7,055
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The Bomber Command reported
every aircraft losses as follows: five Bettys destroyed on
ground; four Zekes destroyed in the air and five destroyed
while taking off; five Zekes probably destroyed and three
probably damaged in the air. The Fighter Command reported
the following enemy losses: nine Zekes, one Tony, and one
Kate destroyed; and one Zke and one Kate probably
destroyed. Seven B-25's sustained minor to moderate
damage, and one received major damage. The B-25's and
P-40's were met at Hille by eight P-39's of 73d Fighter
Squadron who escorted them home. Distance flown: 1,150
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 76, 29 Jan. 44;
VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports,
16-28 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in daylight
mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 25 x 50-lb.
GP bombs from 50 to 75 feet on Ainsman Island and one
on 1/4 a 300-foot cargo vessel near Ainsman. In addition,
they fired 119 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of
.50-cal. ammunition. Results were unobserved except
for heavy smoke seen rising from Ainsman. AA and AN intense
and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 970
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 77, 29 Jan. 44.)

SEARCH - Four B-25's of 398th Bomb Squadron, searching out
of Tarawa, sighted part of an airplane wing. (F/E VII BC
Special Mission Report, 28 Jan. 44.)

27 Jan. 44
MALGEAP - Eight B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron in dusk
attack on Tarawa from Makin. One was abortive because of
engine trouble. Seven dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs from
18,000 to 18,500 feet, 85 per cent on the island. Two
large fires were visible for 60 miles at 12,000 feet.
No AA or interception. None of the B-24's was damaged.
Distance flown: 874 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
Report 78, 31 Jan. 44.)
27 Jan. 44

Rome - Nine B-26's of 48th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin to drop 51 x 100-lb and 9 x 500-lb GP bombs on Motie from 16 to 200 feet, in addition to firing 100 rounds of 75-mm., and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Hits were scored on buildings, AA positions, and runway, with large fires resulting. AA, AN, and 8-AI intense and accurate. One B-25 was shot down, and three B-25's sustained minor damage. Twelve F-60's of 45th Fighter Squadron were sent out to escort the formation back to base, but they did not make contact because the bombers failed to carry out the time schedule. (F/E VII-BC Mission Report 79, 31 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

NAURU - Six B-25's of 395th Bomb Squadron in attack on Nauru from Tarawa dropped 12 x 100-lb and 4 x 500-lb GP bombs from 150 feet on buildings and runway areas, 100 per cent on target. Smoke from fires visible for 15 miles at 100 feet. AA and 8-AI meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 938 statute miles. (F/E VII-BC Mission Report 80, 28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-three A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and two of 46th Fighter Squadron in attack on Mille from Makin. They dropped 53 x 500-lb and 16 x 100-lb GP bombs from 11,000 feet, 80 per cent on target areas. The fighters expended 80 rounds of 37-mm. and 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager. One A-24 crashed in the lagoon, and six A-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 488 statute miles. (F/E VII-BC Mission Report 551-17, 29 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

ESCORT - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron met FB4Y's returning from photo mission over Motie at Majuro. No contact with the enemy. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

Eight crews and airplanes of the 828th Bomb Squadron sent to Makin to stand alerts. Returned to Tarawa on 1 February 1944. (History of 828th Bomb Squadron, 59, 31 Mar. 44.)

28 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Eight B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in night attack on Kwaialain from Tarawa. One was abortive because it could not locate the target, and one airplane failed to return. It is not known whether this airplane was over the target. Six dropped 52 x 500-lb, GP bombs from 7,000 to 10,000 feet on Sol and Nauru, and 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Alinman Island (Jeju) from 7,000 feet. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII-BC Mission Report 81, 31 Jan. 44.)
28 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Five B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in night strike on Kwajalein from Tarawa. Four dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kwajalein Island from 6,000 to 9,250 feet. One airplane, because of illness of pilot and bombardier, dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Jaluit. No AA at either place. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 82, 31 Jan. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in attack on Wotje from Makin. One was abortive. Seven dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 16,000 feet, 86 per cent on target, starting two large fires. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Tarac from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate. No AA at Tarac. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 976 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 83, 1 Feb. 44.)

MALOKAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin in daylight attack on Tarac. Two were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Six dropped 48 parafrag clusters, 12 x 100-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 45 to 100 feet, 50 per cent on target. In addition, they fired 47 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50 cal. ammunition. One Zoko and one Betty were destroyed on the ground. An AA position was destroyed and fires were started on airfield. AA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by four Zokos or Hamps and one possible Fred about two miles from target. They stayed with the formation about five minutes, did not appear experienced or capable and were not aggressive. One Zoko was probably destroyed, and one was damaged. One B-25 was shot down over the target, and two sustained minor damage. Twelve P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron, after orbiting for 25 minutes, met formation in vicinity of Air and escorted it back to Makin. Distance flown: 1,280 statute miles. (F/S VII BC Mission Report 85, 31 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed two small boats along pier. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

29 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Five B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and two of 27th Bomb Squadron in dusk-to-dawn bombing of Kwajalein from Makin. They dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Rock Island, the primary target, 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Hol of Manur, and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Kwajalein Island. One plane dropped 12 x 600-lb. GP bombs on Mille because of adverse weather conditions. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged.
29 Jan. 44  Distance flown: 1,149 statute miles.  (F/E VII BC Mission Report 67, 3 Feb. 44.)

KWAJALEIN - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in night bombing attacks on Kwajalein from Apmama. One was abortive because of failure to find the target. Seven, over the target individually, dropped 34 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kwajalein Island from 2,000 to 11,000 feet, 65 per cent in target. One hit alternate target, Millie, with 12 x 500-lb. GP's from 7,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. One airplane received spasmotic and inaccurate AA fire at Kwajalein, the others received none. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 800-1,550 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 88, 2 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Eight B-24's (squadron not reported) /probably 434t/ in mission against Wotje from Tarawa. One found Wotje and Maleolap completely overcast and jettisoned its bombs. Three dropped 3 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 4,000 to 11,000 feet, 2 of which fell on airfield, causing fires. Two dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP's on Millie Island from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. One dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP's on an undetermined island, Millie Atoll, and one dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP's on Jaluit Island, results unobserved. The alternate targets were attacked because of bad weather at Wotje. Meager and inaccurate AA at Wotje, none from other places. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,285 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 86, 2 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in mission against Wotje from Tarawa dropped 43 x 100-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP's on Wotje from 100 feet, and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on cargo vessel in lagoon. Area strafed with .50-cal. ammunition. A direct hit was scored on cargo vessel and fires were started in barracks area and airfield installations. AA intense but inaccurate. Formation attacked by FOF's of United States Navy Task Force. One B-25 was shot down, another crashed in lagoon as result of attack, and five received minor damage. The crew of the B-25 shot down was rescued by a destroyer. Distance flown: 1,118 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 90, 4 Feb. 44.)

MALEOLAP - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin for mission against Maleolap. Two were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Primary and secondary targets at Tarawa not visible because of weather, so seven B-25's dropped 30 x 100-lb. frags and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tjman from 20 to 100 feet. All strafed with .50-cal. ammunition and fired 81 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. Unidentified buildings were observed to blow up. AA meager and inaccurate, but two B-25's received minor damage.
Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 89, 2 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Eighteen A-24's of 651st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron, in attack on Jaluit from Makin dropped 28 x 500-lb. and 16 x 100-lb. GP bombs on oil storage areas on Eiamij; 100 per cent in target area. They also dropped 500 Japanese language propaganda leaflets. The P-40's dropped 16 x 100-lb. bombs and expended 2,005 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. AA meager, and inaccurate except for one burst which caused minor damage to one A-24. Distance flown: 500 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 551-18, 31 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron and eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, in flights of four, maintained a force of four airplanes over Mille Atoll all day to deny use of airfield to enemy. Expended 39 rounds of .30-cal. and 1,827 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition strafing planes on ground, with undetermined results. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)

KWAJALEIN - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and four of 96th Bomb Squadron in night strikes on Kwajalein from Tarawa. The airplanes were over the target individually all night long. They dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kwajalein Island from 2,600 to 8,000 feet, 46 of which fell on the island; 72 x 500-lb. GPs on Roi Island from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on target; and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Namur from 7,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. There were only three bursts of AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,450 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Reports 91 and 92, 2 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eight P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, 12 P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, of which eight were abortive, and four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron maintained patrol over Mille all day to deny use of airfield to enemy. The P-40's dropped 15 x 100-lb. bombs and strafed with 1,880 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The P-39's strafed with 23 rounds of .30-cal. and 1,006 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)

31 Jan. 44 KWAJALEIN - United States Army troops invaded Kwajalein Atoll.
WOJJE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in night strikes at Wotje from Makin. The airplanes were over the target individually at one-hour intervals, dropping 103 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 12,000 feet, 98 per cent on the island. Large fires were started. Only two airplanes received AA and that was meager and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 960 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 93, 3 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron assigned to strafe reported float planes at Jaluit. Two were abortive. The remainder observed no aircraft, and strafed sunken ship with unreported amount of -50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Nineteen A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in attack on Millie airfield from Makin dropped 7 x 1,000-lb., 33 x 500-lb., and 14 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 95 per cent hitting runways. AA meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two A-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 531-19, 2 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, eight P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, and eight of 72d Fighter Squadron maintained cover over Millie all day to deny enemy use of airfield. They dropped 10 x 100-lb. bombs and expended 62 rounds of 37-mm., and 1,840 rounds of -50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)
1 Feb. 44

KWAJALEIN - Six B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on enemy beach defenses at Kwajalein Island dropped 15 x 2,000-lb. and 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 6,000 to 4,600 feet, in addition to strafing with machine guns. Seventy-eight percent of the bombs hit the target area. The northwest area of the beach appeared to be on fire. No AA. None of the B-24's damaged. Distance flown: 1,445 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 96, 3 Feb. 44)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille strafed beached schooner with 2,075 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. No shipping observed. Intense medium AA caused no damage to P-40's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

2 Feb. 44

RONGELAP-MILLE - Four B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron dropped 160 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Rongelap from 8,700 to 10,000 feet, and strafed with 2,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Ninety-eight percent of the bombs hit target area. After bombing Rongelap, the B-24's photographed Mille. Meager and inaccurate AA from both places caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,625 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 97, 4 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons and eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in attack on Mille from Mokai dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 33 x 500-lb., and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent in target area. P-40's dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs, 100 per cent on target, and all fighters expended 2,200 rounds of .50-cal. and 15 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition in strafing. Mission of making runways non-operational was accomplished. AA moderate and accurate as to height, but trailing. AW moderate. One A-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-20, 4 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

3 Feb. 44

MILLE - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission over Mille dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs and strafed with 3,675 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, destroying one Zeké on the ground. Meager, accurate AA caused minor damage to one P-40. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

4 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and seven of 26th Bomb Squadron with three of 98th Bomb Squadron attached, assigned mission against Wotje. Eighteen took off from Tarawa. Two were abortive because of gasoline leaks. Sixteen dropped 192 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje Island; on fourth island north of Wotje from 5,500 to 11,000 feet. Medium-sized fires reported. One crew reported two inescapable bursts of AA, and
others reported none. None of the B-24's was damaged.
Distance flown: 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
Report 98, 6 Feb. 44.)

MALOLOP-MILLE - Fifteen B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb.
Squadrons in attacks on Taroa and Mille from Makin. Twelve
bombers, over Taroa individually, dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP
bombs from 8,000 to 12,500 feet, 90 per cent on island.
Three airplanes were over Mille. One dropped 12 x 500-lb,
GP bombs from 1,500 feet and strafed area, with results un-
oberved. The activity of the other two airplanes was
unreported. Only two flashes of AA at Taroa. AA at Mille
intense but inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged.
Distance flown: 2,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
Report 99, 8 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa dropped
32 x 500-lb, GP bombs from 30 to 100 feet on Wotje, and ex-
ploded 111 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-
ca1. ammunition in strafing the area. All bombs hit island,
with direct hits on fuel dumps and gun emplacements. AW and
SA meager to intense, and accurate. One B-25 received minor
damage. Distance flown: 1,080 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report 100, 7 Feb. 44.)

MALOLOP - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in mission from
Apamama dropped 28 x 500-lb, GP bombs from 25 to 100 feet on
Taroa, island northwest of Taroa, and Reuters, in addition
to expanding 38 rounds of 75-mm. and 11,016 rounds of .50-
cal. ammunition. Fires were started, and MG and AA positions
were silenced. AA meager and inaccurate. MG and AW from
Taroa intense and inaccurate. Two B-25's sustained minor
damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report 101, 7 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance
mission over Mille dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs* and fired 1,855
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Results were unobserved be-
cause of cloud coverage. (VII BC Provisional Group Consolidated
Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconna-
sissance, dive-bombing and strafing mission against Jaluit. Two
were abortive. Fourteen dropped 28 x 1,000-lb. bombs and fired
6,945 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Oil stores area was
heavily hit. Moderate to intense and accurate AA slightly
damaged two P-40's. This was the heaviest bomb load carried
by P-40's in any operation. (Ibid.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron on reconnaissance
over Mille strafed runways with 43 rounds of 37-mm. and 150
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition with unreported results.
(Ibid.)
WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarawa, dropped 108 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 12,500 feet, 81 per cent on the island. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,170 statute miles. (7/F VII BC Mission Report 102, 9 Feb. 44.)

MAOLEAP - Four B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maoleap from Tarawa, dropped 48 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 7,800 to 9,500 feet, 100 per cent on island. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (Ibid.)

MILLE - Twenty-two A-20's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in daylight dive-bombing attack from Mokan dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 39 x 500-lb., and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille, with dives begun at 9,500 to 10,000 feet. All of the bombs hit on or near runways. One of the P-40's was abortive. Eleven dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 6,210 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with direct hits on underground hanger. AA, AW, and SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (7/F VII BC Mission Report 531-21, 8 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. Runways appeared to be in poor condition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and four of 46th Fighter Squadron in strafing mission against Jaluit expended 1,238 rounds of .50-cal. and 67 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, causing damage to radio station. AA intense but inaccurate. None of the P-39's was damaged. (Ibid.)

7 Feb. 44

MAOLEAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Apamama in mission against Maoleap. Landed at Mokan to close formation. One failed to take off from Mokan because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 30 to 300 feet, 60 per cent in target area. Expended 37 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. SA inaccurate. Two B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,300 statute miles. (7/F VII BC Mission Report 103, 10 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in strike at Wotje from Tarawa dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 75 feet, 100 per cent on target, with all parts of island being hit. AW and SA meager to moderate and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,191 statute miles. (Ibid.)
7 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in dive-bombing and strafing mission against Jaluit dropped 32 x 1,000-lb. bombs and fired 8,625 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Got one direct hit on stores area, and hits on RDF station at Enybor. Intense MG caused no damage. Pilots reported that heavy loads of 2,000 pounds adversely affect flying characteristics of P-40 in high-speed dives. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. This was the last mission from Makin by 46th Fighter Squadron. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

8 Feb. 44

MALCELAP - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and three of 36th Bomb Squadron in attack on Malcelap from Makin dropped 132 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 10,000 to 13,000 feet, with 75 per cent on target, although darkness and cloud cover prevented accurate observation. One crew reported seeing approximately seven bursts of AA, the others none. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,173 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 104, 12 Feb. 44.)

MALCELAP-MILLE - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Notje from Apanama. They did not attack primary target because of the weather. One B-24 was abortive for the same reason. Three dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 11,000 feet, and five dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP's on Mille from 10,000 feet. All bombs hit the target at both places. No AA. Distance flown: 1,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 104, 11 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's - two from the 72d Fighter Squadron with two from the 46th Fighter Squadron attached - in reconnaissance mission over Mille. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

9 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twenty-three A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 16 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Jaluit. One A-24 was abortive due to engine trouble. Twenty-two dropped 22 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, diving from 10,000 feet and pulling out at 1,500 to 3,500 feet. First two flights caused explosions and fires in oil storage. Last two flights attacked buildings, destroying two and damaging others. The P-40's dropped 32 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 4,395 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. They got direct hit on a five-inch gun. MG's were to moderate and accurate. One A-24 was shot down, and one was damaged. The crew of the destroyed plane was rescued by Dumbo. Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-22, 9 Feb. 44; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)
10 Feb. 44

MALELAP - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in dusk-to-dawn mission against Malelap from Tarawa dropped 57 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 7,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on the island, causing two very large explosions and numerous smaller ones, followed by large fires. Meager and inaccurate AA encountered by two airplanes. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,034 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 105, 12 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Fourteen B-24's of 98th and 26th Bomb Squadrons in dusk-to-dawn mission against Wotje from Tarawa dropped 84 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, with 66 falling on runways and 8 more on island. Two fires were visible for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,165 statute miles. (Ibid.)

JIWUIT - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Rongelap attacked Emidj when No. 3 gas tank of lead plane developed leak. They dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs - from 16,000 feet, all of which went in lagoon. AA moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,456 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 110, 12 Feb. 44.)

11 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in strike on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 200 feet, 90 per cent on the target, and fired 104 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AW and SA meager but fairly accurate, causing moderate damage to four B-25's. Distance flown: 1,080 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 106, 12 Feb. 44.)

MALELAP - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in strike on Malelap from Tarawa dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 50 to 75 feet, 100 per cent on target, and strafed with .50-cal. ammunition. Large fires were started. AA moderate to intense and accurate. Two B-25's were shot down. Distance flown: 1,205 statute miles. (Ibid.)

MILLE - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. bombs, 90 per cent on hangars and airfield installations, and expended 11,775 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. This was both a dive-bombing and skip-bombing mission. The dive-bombing and strafing runs preceded the skip bombers. The dive-bomb runs were made through the clouds and the pilots revved up their engines for noise effect. Intense AW and moderate AA caused no damage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron strafed installations on Mille with 137 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, hitting AA positions. AA and AW positions ceased firing as soon as the fighters opened up. (Ibid.)
11 Feb. 44 The 46th Fighter Squadron departed Makin for Oahu. (History of 46th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

12 Feb. 44 WONE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomber Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 50 to 100 feet, and fired 44 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of 50-cal. ammunition. All of the bombs hit the target. AW and SA meager and inaccurate. One B-25 crashed in the ocean about 200 yards from the target and exploded upon hitting the water. None of the other B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 108, 12 Feb. 44.)

MALCElap - Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in strike on Malcelap from Apenama dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarra from 50 to 100 feet, 100 per cent on target, in addition to expending 42 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,185 rounds of 50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and inaccurate, AW meager and inaccurate, and MG moderate and accurate. Two B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 107, 16 Feb. 44.)

Mille - Twenty-two A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mille from Makin dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 39 x 500-lb., and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 90 per cent falling on or near runways. The P-39's expended 785 rounds of 50-cal. and 28 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition strafing AW positions. The A-24's also dropped 300 Japanese language propaganda leaflets. AW and SA moderate to intense, and inaccurate to accurate. One A-24 crashed about 20 miles from Mille, and two additional A-24's sustained minor damage. Later in day, eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron covered two FBY's in search for gunner who had bailed out of A-24. Failed to locate gunner. Distance flown: 580 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-23, 14 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

14 Feb. 44 PONAPE - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, 9 of 38th Bomb Squadron, and 9 of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Makin and Tarawa—the first Seventh Air Force Mission against this target. Twenty-seven dropped 22 x 100-lb. GP bombs on runway Island and 174 x 100-lb. GP's on Langar Island from 10,500 to 12,500 feet, with 85 per cent to 100 per cent falling in target areas. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Emidj (Jaluit) from 10,500 to 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. Only one B-24 reported AA at Ponape, and that was inaccurate. AA at Emidj moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,296 to 2,005 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 119, 28 Feb. 44.)
14 Feb. 44

WOTJE-MALOEILAP-MILLIE - Eight B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in night missions from Tarawa. Three dropped 18 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 7,000 to 10,400 feet, 83 per cent in target. Four dropped 21 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Tarawa from 6,900 to 10,500 feet, 79 per cent in target area. One dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Miller from 7,700 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate, and at Tarao moderate and inaccurate. There was no AA at Miller. One B-24 sustained minor damage from AA, and one from test-firing its own guns. Distance flown: 674 to 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 120, 15 Feb. 44.)

15 Feb. 44

PONAPE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and six of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of illness of pilot. Fourteen dropped 360 x 100-1b. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,500 feet. The percentage of hits was not estimated because of cloud cover, although 175 were observed to fall on land. AA meager to moderate, inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 2,260 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 118, 17 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron dropped 3 x 1,000-lb. and 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Milne, 100 per cent falling on or near runways. Upon leaving target, one airplane fired 200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at stern of sunken ship, starting a small fire. AA and AW meager and inaccurate. One A-24 received minor damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-24, 15 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 459th Fighter Squadron in mission against Milne. Two were abortive. Ten dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 1,575 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. (VII BC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - One A-20 of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron sent out to search for A-24 believed missing. Plane not missing, and returned to base. However, airplane sent out on search failed to return. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Search Mission Report 531-1, 15 Feb. 44.)

The 72d Fighter Squadron departed Makin for Oahu. (History of 72d Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

16 Feb. 44

WOTJE-MALOEILAP - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and one of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight strikes from Tarawa. Four dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,000 to 8,800 feet, 100 per cent on target. Four dropped 21 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Tarawa from 10,500 to 14,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA at Wotje. Intense and accurate AA at Tarao. Two B-24's were damaged slightly. Distance flown: 1,100 to 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 122, 17 Feb. 44.)
JALUIT - Fifteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Jaluit dropped 30 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 14,235 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Tremendous fires started by strafing run on reported gas storage structures. Intense AA and AW caused two hits in one P-40. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in another mission against Jaluit. Two were abortive. Ten dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 6,845 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, damaging a 150-foot cargo vessel. Two P-40's were shot down by intense AA and AW. Both pilots bailed out. (Ibid.)

MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in mission against runways and AW positions at Mille. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 30 x 500-lb. and 1 x 1,000-lb. bombs, all on or near target areas. AW intense and accurate. One A-24 was shot down over the target, and one developed engine trouble on return to base and crashed in water. Two sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-25, 16 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron covered PBY in attempted rescue of man from downed A-24 near Mille. Man in raft located, but PBY unable to land because of gunfire. Raft drifted in toward island. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron strafed float planes off Emidj with 3,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Planes also made search for pilots down at sea, but could not locate them. (Ibid.)

SEARCH - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in search for A-24 crew near Mille, but located nothing. Later in day, eight P-40's in same search located crew members, who were picked up by Dumbo. (Ibid.)

PONAPE-KUSAIE - Fourteen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in mission against Ponape from Tarawa. Three were abortive. Eight dropped 206 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, 80 per cent on target, starting large fires visible for 50 miles at 11,500 feet. One flight of three B-24's became lost and because of uncertainty of enemy resistance at Ponape, flight leader decided to strike Kusale, which they did with 60 x 1,000-lb. GP's from 10,500 to 11,500 feet. 67 per cent in target. AA at Ponape moderate to intense, and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-24's. No AA at Kusale. Distance flown: 1,932 to 2,166 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report 123, 20 Feb. 44.)
17-18 Feb. 44  
KUSAIE-JALUIT — Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight attacks from Apanama. Six dropped 180 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Port Lottin and Lale Harbor at Kusaie from 7,000 to 10,500 feet, 31 per cent in target areas, sinking one 200-foot cargo ship and one lighter. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 11,500 feet, 85 per cent on target, with damage unobserved. AA and AW meager and inaccurate at Kusaie, and AA moderate and inaccurate at Jaluit. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,254 to 1,668 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 122, 19 Feb. 44.)

18 Feb. 44  
JALUIT — Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Jaluit. Four were abortive. Eight dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 3,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Radio station on Jaluit believed destroyed. Intense AA caused no damage. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

MILLE — Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 24 x 20-lb. frags and fired 890 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition with undetermined results. There was little AA. (Ibid.)

19 Feb. 44  
MILLE — Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 24 x 20-lb. frags on Mille and fired 2,135 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. (Ibid.)

19-20 Feb. 44  
PONAPE-KUSAIE — Nine B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa. Six B-24's, in individual passes, one from 50 feet and five from 4,000 to 10,000 feet, dropped 840 x 6-lb. incendiaries and 120 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape. One airplane, in addition, strafed Param with .50-cal. ammunition. Three dropped 120 x 6-lb. incendiaries and 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 9,000 to 10,000 feet. It was estimated that 100 per cent of bombs fell on target areas at both places. No AA. Distance flown: 2,752 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 124, 21 Feb. 44.)

PONAPE-KUSAIE — Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Makin. Fourteen dropped 420 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,500 to 13,000 feet. One dropped 30 x 100-lb. GPs on small island west of Ponape. Four dropped 120 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. Percentage of hits at Ponape not estimated because of cloud cover. At Kusaie there all of the bombs hit the target. No AA at either place. Distance flown: 3,364 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 126, 24 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE — Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 33 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent hitting island on or near target area.
19-20
Feb. 44
Large explosion observed west of service apron. No AA. None of the B-25's were damaged. Distance flown: 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 125, 21 Feb. 44.)

20 Feb. 44
MILLE - Fourteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 28 x 500-lb. bombs, 100 per cent on target, and fired 6,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Four small boats were believed destroyed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

20-21
Feb. 44
NOTE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wetje from 7,500 to 8,000 feet, with hits on runway intersections and blockhouse. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 131, 22 Feb. 44.)

21 Feb. 44
PONAPE-JALUIT - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in mission from Apanama. Nine dropped 5 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,500 feet on Langar Island (Ponape), 10 per cent in target area, and one dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP's on Kusaie from 9,000 feet, results unobserved. Four B-24's reared at Roi Island (Kwajalein) and dropped 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emi (Jaluit) from 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA and AW meager and inaccurate at Ponape, intense and accurate at Emi. No AA at Kusaie. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,650 to 2,540 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 129, 1 Mar. 44.)

MALCEAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in mission from Apanama. Three were abortive because of losing formation in overcast. Six dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,200 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on target area. AA and AW meager and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 132, 25 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs, 100 per cent on runway intersection, and fired 1,105 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One boat was destroyed by strafing. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

21-22
Feb. 44
PONAPE-KUSAIE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and seven of 93rd Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponas from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Thirteen dropped 376 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponas from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, 100 per cent hits, setting large areas in Ponas Town on fire. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Kusaie from 9,000 feet, 60 per cent hits. One large fire was started. Two airplanes reported meager and inaccurate AA from Ponas, and from Kusaie there was none. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,612 to 2,210 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 127, 25 Feb. 44.)
22 Feb. 44  KUSABLE - One B-24 of 431st Bomb Squadron in strike against shipping reported in Kusai harbor. It found no shipping, so dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kusai from 6,000 feet, with results unobserved because of approaching darkness and cloud cover. AA and AW intense and accurate, but caused no damage. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 25 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eight A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 4 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mille from Makin. All of the A-24's and five of the P-40's were turned back abortive by the weather. Nine P-40's dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs, and expended 3,425 rounds of .50-calammunition. In addition, one rocket was fired. This was the first time rockets had been launched from airplanes in this area. Hits were scored on runway, and three small boats were destroyed. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-26, 24 Feb. 44; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

23 Feb. 44  MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs on Mille and fired 795 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Bombs were dropped from high-level runs at 8,000 feet, and no hits were scored. Two small boats were destroyed by strafing. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

23-24 Feb. 44  KUSABLE - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in attack on Kusai from Tarawa. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 290 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 90 per cent on barracks and storage area. One warehouse was seen to explode on waterfront, and fires were observed. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,350 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 125, 25 Feb. 44.)

KUSABLE/JALUIT - Twenty B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission from Makin. Three dropped 90 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Kusai from 10,000 feet, results unobserved due to cloud cover. Seventeen dropped 485 x 100-lb. GP's on Emidj from 8,500 to 11,000 feet. One airplane jettisoned bombs due to prop malfunction, returned to Makin, re-loaded and dropped 15 x 100-lb. GP's on Emidj. It was estimated that 95 per cent of all bombs dropped on Emidj hit target areas. No AA at Kusai. Moderate AA and AW at Emidj. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,381 to 2,729 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 130, 26 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 45th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Apamama dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 133, 24 Feb. 44.)
24 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twelve A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 14 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, dropped 7 x 1,000-lb. and 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on RDF station at Enybor and radio station at Aisenman. All bombs hit target areas. The P-40's dropped 28 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 7,505 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with hits on targets as above, and in addition sank six small boats. Mille: meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. Crews of A-24's reported: "Mille Island now looks as bad as Mille." Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-2, 24 Feb. 44; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports 20-29 Feb. 44.)

Mille - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 24 x 20-lb. frags on Mille and fired 1,935 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with hits on barracks and machine-gun positions. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

24-25 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 26 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 feet, 64 per cent in target area. No AA. One of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,051 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 134, 20 Mar. 44.)

25 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Jaluit. One was abortive. Eleven dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 6,320 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Twenty of the bombs hit Tinist. One 35-foot boat was sunk. No AA. One P-40 crashed, possibly hit by ricocheting bullets. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron strafed Jaluit with 1,990 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and searched for downed pilot, but saw no sign of him. (Ibid.)

Mille - One B-25 of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group and one of 45th Bomb Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille runway and barracks area from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. They also strafed with .50-cal. machine guns. AA moderate and accurate as to altitude, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 497 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Mille, 28 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - Eight A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron assigned to search for B-25 down near Makin. They did not find B-25. Remarks on mission report to the effect that A-24 is not well adapted for search, and with the navigation equipment it has, search missions are positively dangerous. Distance flown: 350 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Search Mission Report 531-2, 25 Feb. 44.)
26-26 Feb. 44

PONAPE - Seventeen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarewa dropped 39 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 56 clusters of 4 x 6-lb. incendiaries, 87 clusters of 3 x 4-lb. incendiaries, and 57 clusters of 4 x 4-lb. incendiaries from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. Fires were started in airfield installations and Ponape Town. AA varied from meager and inaccurate to intense and accurate. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 2,277 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 135, 26 Feb. 44.)

PONAPE - Eight B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Apamana in daylight attack on Ponape. Seven dropped 210 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,600 to 11,000 feet, 77 per cent in town and dock area. Several airplanes strafed Ponape Town during bomb runs. One B-24, because of illness of pilot, dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on alternate target, Kusaie, from 10,200 feet, with results unobserved. AA at Ponape intense and fairly accurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 1,656 to 2,615 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 136, 26 Feb. 44.)

WONJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarewa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wonje from 7,760 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in or near target area. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,230 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 137, 26 Feb. 44.)

26 Feb. 44

JALUIT - One B-25 of 48th Bomb Squadron and one of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group in daylight mission from Majuro dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidji from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 100 per cent on target, and fired 6 rounds of 77-mm. ammunition. AA intense, and accurate as to altitude, but trailing. Neither of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 515 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Emidji Island, Jaluit, 26 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Millie dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 3,315 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. They got seven hits on runway. Installations at Burrah Island were destroyed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - Eight A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron and two SBD's were assigned search for B-25 down near Makin. No success. All planes returned safely. Distance flown: 575 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Search Mission Report 531-3, 26 Feb. 44.)

Air echelons of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons moved from Nanomea to Makin. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 38th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)
26-27
Feb. 44

WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apanama dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 per cent on target. No AA or interception. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,380 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 138, 29 Feb. 44.)

27 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twelve A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, assigned mission against radio station three miles below Jaber Town, Jaluit. Four of the A-24's were abortive. Eight dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs, all of which fell in target area, starting fires. The P-40's dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 7,975 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Ten of the bombs hit radio station area and four in stores area. SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Two of the abortives were damaged by belly-landings. Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Reports 53-38, 27 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29, Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Three P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission over Mille dropped 18 x 20-lb. frags and fired 1,075 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. All of the bombs hit the target. A large fuel fire was started. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

27-28
Feb. 44

PONAPE-JALUIT - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron, eight of 26th Bomb Squadron, and eight of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Makin and Tarawa. One was abortive because of gasoline overflow in bomb bay. Twenty dropped 117 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 9,500 to 12,000 feet, 55-94 per cent hits. Fires and violent explosions were observed. Four dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP's on Emidj from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 66-100 per cent hits. All at Ponape moderate to intense, and accurate as to altitude, but trailing; at Emidj, moderate to intense. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 601 to 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 139, n.d.)

WOTJE-MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight shuttle attack from Apanama. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eleven dropped 42 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 61 per cent in target area, and fired one 75-mm. shell and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Explosions gave off heavy gray smoke which was visible for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. No AA. The B-25's rearmed at Majuro, and on return to Apanama dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 8,500 to 11,000 feet, 73 per cent on target. Explosions observed which gave off heavy black smoke visible for 40 miles. Moderate and inaccurate AA caused minor damage to one B-25. Distances flown: first strike, 850 statute miles; second strike, 490 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 140, 1 Mar. 44.)

28-29  WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,000 to 8,600 feet, 92 per cent in target area. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 141, 1 Mar. 44.)

29 Feb. 44  MILLE - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in day and night mission over Mille from Malin and Apanama. Five in daylight attack dropped 15 x 2,000-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 14,000 feet, and four in night mission dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,100 to 12,500 feet. Eighty per cent of all bombs dropped hit runways. AA on both missions meager, although that during day was fairly accurate. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 845 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 144, 7 Mar. 44.)

29 Feb. - 1 Mar. 44  WOTJE - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight strike at Wotje from Tarawa dropped 60 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on runways and airdromes area. Smoke from explosions visible 15 miles at 9,000 feet. No AA. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 142, 4 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Seven B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 18 x 2,000-lb. and 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 per cent in or near target. One small fire was observed. No AA. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 143, 3 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emdij from 8,000 to 9,750 feet, with only eight per cent known to hit target area. Overcast prevented accurate observation of results. AA meager to moderate, and accurate as to altitude but trailing. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 810 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 145, 3 Mar. 44.)
JALUIT-MILLE - Two B-25's of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Enewot and Kabbenbock Islands, Jaluit, from 8,000 feet, with four hits observed on Kabbenbock. No AA. Rearmed and refueled at Kwajalein and dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille from 7,700 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Meager AA as to altitude but to right of formation. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances from: first strike, 616 statute miles; second strike, 658 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Jaluit and Mille, 3 Mar. 44.)
JALUIT - Nine B-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 43rd Fighter Squadron, dropped 9 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on ammunition storage at Emi'dj, eight of which fell in target area. One of the P-40's was abortive. Eleven dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 4,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. RDF station on Ehytor totally destroyed, and radio station on Emi'dj damaged. AA meager and inaccurate. AV intense and accurate after dive. One A-20 had left wing-tip torn off by AV fire. Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-29, 1 Mar. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs and 22 x 20-lb. frags on Mille, 100 per cent on target, and fired 1,265 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Pilots reported that two runways were being abandoned, but one was being repaired. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

Maloelap - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Apanama dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 96 per cent on runways and adjoining areas. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 146, 3 Mar. 44.)

RECONNAISSANCE - One B-24 of 349th Bomber Command photographed Mille, Taroa, and Wotje, and on return to base at Tarawa photographed Mille for second time. Meager and accurate AA from Mille and Taroa, and none from Wotje. The B-24 was not damaged. Distance flown: 1,198 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Photo Mission to Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje, 4 Mar. 44.)

Ponape-Kusaie - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in dawn mission from Tarawa. Five dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 2,100 to 12,000 feet, 70 per cent on target. One of these strafed Ponape Town and installations on airfield with 2,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 1,000 to 2,000 feet. Two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Kusaie from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, 70 per cent on target. AA at Ponape moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Kusaie. Distance flown: 2,266 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 147, 3 Mar. 44.)

Maloelap - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Apanama. One abortive because of weather. Eleven dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,500 to 9,200 feet, 91 per cent hitting runways and airfield installations. AA intense and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 148, 3 Mar. 44.)
3 Mar. 44  PONAPE - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and nine of 38th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Makin. Two were abortive because of mechanical trouble. Twelve dropped 6x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Large fires in warehouse area and in Ponape Town visible for 40 miles. Three dropped 21x 500-lb. GPS on alternate target, Kusai, from 9,500 to 10,700 feet, 66 per cent on piers and adjacent buildings. Two dropped 1x 500-lb. GPS on Emidj, the last resort target, from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on land. One dropped 7x 500-lb. GPS on Mille from 10,000 feet, results unobserved. AA at Ponape moderate to intense, generally inaccurate. AA at Emidj meager and inaccurate. No AA at Kusai or Mille. Three B-24's sustained minor damage. Five airplanes were unable to bomb primary target because bomb bay door of lead plane blew off in descent. Distance flown: 439 to 2,085 statute miles. (F/E VII 3G Mission Report 147-4, 7 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron assigned dive-bombing and strafing mission against Mille. All were abortive because of solid front encountered enroute. Jettisoned 26x 500-lb. bombs. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

3-4 Mar. 44  MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 48x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taraa from 8,200 to 8,700 feet, 92 per cent hitting runways and adjacent areas. Fire was visible for 50 miles. Bombs hit apparently silenced gun positions southwest of barracks area. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,097 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 149, 7 Mar. 44.)

4 Mar. 44  MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8x 500-lb. bombs on runways at Mille and fired 655 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

4-5 Mar. 44  WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 36x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 81 per cent on or near runways and installations on airfield. One B-25 fired two rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. Large explosions and a fire visible for 10 miles at 8,000 feet were observed. No AA. Distance flown: 1,120 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 150, 6 Mar. 44.)

5 Mar. 44  MILLE - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille. One was abortive. Fifteen dropped 24x 500-lb. bombs and 24x 20-lb. frags, 100 per cent on runways and airfield installations, and fired 3,060 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)
CONCEDE CONFRONFI

5-6 Mar. 44

PONAPE - Sixteen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine failure. Thirteen dropped 13 x 1,000-lb. and 42 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 7,500 to 10,200 feet, in individual runs. All of the 1,000-lb. bombs fell on target, but results of 500-pounders were unobserved. Explosions and fires were observed in bauxite plant, wharf, and town area. One B-24 dropped 3 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie from 10,000 feet, two of which hit land. One dropped 6 x 500-lb. GPs on Millie from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and ammunition storage. AA at Ponape intense, and accurate as to altitude. No AA at Kusaie and Millie. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,120 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 152, 9 Mar. 44.)

MALOEAPE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Tarawa. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,500 feet, results unobserved because of 100 per cent cloud cover. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GPs on Millie, last-resort target, from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and airfield installations. No AA. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 151, 8 Mar. 44.)

6 Mar. 44

MILLE - Nine A-24's of 53rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against runways at Millie. One A-24 was abortive because of fire in electrical system. Total bomb load of A-24's was 5 x 1,000-lb., 8 x 500-lb., and 8 x 120-lb. GP bombs. Of those dropped 85 per cent hit runway area. The P-40's dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 2,710 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, getting hits on communications installations and stores area. AA and AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (53rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-30, 6 Mar. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

6-7 Mar. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 6 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 9,800 feet, 81 per cent on or near targets, which were runways and airfield installations. No AA. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 153, 8 Mar. 44.)

7 Mar. 44

KUSAIE-JALUIT - Eleven B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Apamana. Because of weather conditions over Ponape, alternate and last-resort targets were attacked. One dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie, the alternate target, from 9,000 feet, 90 per cent on dock installations at Lale Harbor. Ten dropped 26 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj, last-resort target, from 10,500 to 12,000 feet, 89 per cent on island. No AA at Kusaie. AA at Emidj moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown:
MILLE - Seventeen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission
against Mille. One was abortive. Sixteen dropped 26 x 500-lb.
bombs and 24 x 20-lb. frags, with hits on runways and in
barracks area. They also fired 4,160 rounds of .50-cal. ammuni-
tion. Intense AA damaged wing of one P-40. (VII FC Pro-
visional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Sixteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight
mission against Maloelap from Apanama dropped 64 x 500-lb.
GP bombs on Tarus from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, 63 of which hit
targets—runways, AA positions, stores and barrack areas—and all
hit land. They fired 28 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,350 rounds of
.50-cal. ammunition from 50 to 3,000 feet; with results un-
observed. AA moderate to intense, and inaccurate to accurate.
Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,250
statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 155, 9 Mar. 44.)

PONAP - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in mission over
Ponape from Makan. Seven dropped 210 x 100-lb. GP bombs on
Ponape from 12,000 to 12,500 feet, 85 per cent on dock area
and airfield. Four dropped 120 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from
2,000 to 10,500 feet, 70 per cent in target area. AA at
Ponape moderate and accurate. AA at Kusaie intense and in-
accurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown:
2,075 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 154, 11 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Nine A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted
by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, dropped 5 x 1,000-lb.,
12 x 500-lb., and 8 x 100-lb. GP bombs on runways at Mille,
100 per cent on target. The P-40's dropped 15 x 500-lb. bombs,
getting five hits on AA positions. They also fired 2,395
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA and AW meager, and inac-
curate to accurate. One A-24 received minor damage. Distance flown: 530 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron
Mission Report 531-31, 8 Mar. 44; VII FC Provisional Group
Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack
on Wotje from Tarama dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP
bombs from 7,700 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and
airfield installations. One flight of three B-25's landed at
Kwajalein and from there made second attack, dropping 6 x 500-
lb. GPs from 7,800 feet, 100 per cent on runways. No AA.
Distance flown: 1,090 to 1,400 statute miles. (P/E VII BC
Mission Report 156, 11 Mar. 44.)
MALOELAP - Fourteen B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Apanama. Five were abortive because of weather conditions. Nine dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 5,200 to 10,000 feet, 83 per cent on runways and airfield installations. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Distance flown: 1,280 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 157, 11 Mar. 44.)

Mille - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron assigned mission against Mille were all abortive because of solid overcast and rain. They jettisoned 24 x 500-lb. bombs. (VII PC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

POHANG - Nineteen B-24's of 26th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of illness of engineer, and one because of mechanical trouble. Fourteen dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Lungar Island from 10,500 to 15,000 feet, 75 per cent on target. Eleven fires were visible for 20 miles at 11,000 feet. Three dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP's on Kusale from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on or near targets at Lolo Harbor. AA at Ponape moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Kusale. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,500 to 2,300 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 158, 11 Mar. 44.)

KUSALE - Three B-25's of 596th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Kusale from Engebi dropped 1 x 500-lb. GP bomb from 100 feet, destroying one three-story building on Lolo Island, and fired five rounds of .50-cal. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager to moderate, and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 854 statute miles. (41st Bomb Group Mission Report, 12 Mar. 44.)

Mille - Nine A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mille. Two x-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. Seven dropped 5 x 1,000-lb., 5 x 500-lb., and 8 x 100-lb. GP bombs on runways, 100 per cent on target. The P-40's dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 2,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Bomb hits were observed on radio installations and A/C positions. AA moderate and accurate. AA meager to moderate. None of the aircraft was damaged, but two crew members received minor injuries. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-32, 10 Mar. 44; VII PC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

Mille - One B-25 of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,700 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. Distance flown: 810 statute miles. (VII BC Special Mission Report, 13 Mar. 44.)
WOJJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Nokko from Tarawa dropped 11 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, with 92 per cent of 500-pounders and 97 per cent of 100-pounders hitting area of north service apron. No AA. Distance flown: 1,110 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report 159, 12 Mar. 44.)

11 Mar. 44

WAKE - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 38th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wake from Kwajalein dropped 198 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Peale Island and Wake Island from 11,500 to 13,300 feet. The 27th Squadron got 75 per cent hits, and the 38th Squadron got 97 per cent hits. One fire was visible for 35 miles at 10,000 feet, and another for 60 miles at 11,000 feet. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage to B-24's. Distance flown: 2,496 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report 161, 15 Mar. 44.)

MILLS - Seventeen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron assigned mission against Mills were all abortive because of solid front encountered enroute. This was the last mission of 45th Fighter Squadron from Makin. (VF PC Provisional/Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

11-12

MARCELAP - Twelve B-25's of 438th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Tarawa from Apanama. Eight were abortive because of the weather. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and southeast barracks area. AA intense but inaccurate, causing no damage to B-25's. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report 160, 14 Mar. 44.)

MARCELAP - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 8,500 feet. The bombs overshot the barracks, primary target, and landed on airfield. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 812 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Special Mission Report, 13 Mar. 44.)

12 Mar. 44

NAURU - Six B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in armed reconnaissance mission over Nauru from Apanama. One was abortive because of gas leak. Five dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,500 to 13,000 feet, 100 per cent hitting military positions. AA and AW moderate and inaccurate. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Obtained 100 per cent photo coverage. Distance flown: 483 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report 169, 14 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of the 27th Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Nenana on 2 March 1944. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)
12-13
Mar. 44
MILLE-WOTJE-MALOELAP - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in
daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission from Tarawa. Two
were abortive because of heavy cloud cover over Mille. One
dropped 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 6,000 to 11,000
feet, with four hitting near radio station and five among
small revetted buildings. Three dropped 27 x 500-lb. GPs on
Taroa from 10,000 feet, in individual runs, with 18 hitting
AA positions and runways. Three dropped 27 x 500-lb. GPs on
Wotje from 10,000 feet, in individual runs, getting 100 per
cent hits in barracks, radio station, and magazine areas.
AA at Mille moderate and accurate as to altitude, but trailing.
AA at Taroa moderate and accurate as to range and altitude, but
trailing. AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate. One B-24 sustained
minor damage. Obtained 100 per cent photo coverage of all
targets. Distances flown: 674-1, 029-1, 173 statute miles.
(FE VII BC Mission Report 168, 17 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack
on Jaluit from Apenama dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj
from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 75 per cent on gun emplacements. AA
intensive to moderate, and inaccurate to accurate. None of the
B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 980 statute miles. (FE
VII BC Mission Report 162, 16 Mar. 44.)

13 Mar. 44
KUSAIE - Three B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission
from Engebi dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie from 25 to
100 feet, and fired 39 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported
amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Hits were scored on buildings
and installations. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-25 re-
ceived minor damage. Distance flown: 1,425 statute miles.
(FE VII BC Special Mission Report, Kusaie Island, 26 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of the 38th Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein,
having departed Nanumana on 29 February 1944. (History of 38th
Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

13-14
Mar. 44
PONAPE - Eight B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th
Bomb Squadron in mission against Ponape from Tarawa. Six
dropped 172 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape Island from 9,400 to
10,000 feet, 60 per cent on barracks and runways. Nine dropped
27 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Ponape Island from 6,800 to 9,000 feet,
with 11 hitting oil processing plant and 12 near runways. Two
dropped 69 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 8,000 to 10,000 feet,
with 50 per cent hitting targets on Molaneil Island and Lelu
Harbor. One B-24 rearmed at Kwajalein, and on return to
Tarawa dropped 9 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj from 11,000 feet, seven
of which hit barracks and storage areas. AA at both Ponape
and Kusaie meager and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was
damaged. Distance flown: 2,300 statute miles. (FE VII BC
Mission Report 164, 17 Mar. 44.)
MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 438th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Mille from Apamana dropped 106 x 100-lb. and 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 70 per cent on radio station, coast defense, and storage areas. No AA. Distance flown: 825 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 163, 15 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight shuttle mission over Mille from Tarawa. One was abortive because it was unable to open bomb bay doors over target. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,750 feet, 100 per cent in area of radio installations. AA meager and inaccurate. All three airplanes landed at Kwajalein, and on return to Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Mille from 7,700 feet, with only one hitting land. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 684 statute miles; second strike, 683 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 163-8, 14 Mar. 44.)

KUSAIE - Three B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Enogai dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Malaei Island from 150 to 200 feet, and fired 23 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Results were unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 990 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Kusaie Island, 21 Mar. 44.)

TONE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Tone from Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 100 x 100-lb. GP bombs over 3 1/2 hour period from 7,600 to 8,700 feet, 90 per cent on runway intersections, barracks, and airfield installations. AA intense to moderate, and accurate as to altitude, but trailing, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 165, 17 Mar. 44.)

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 392d Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk from Kwajalein—the Seventh Air Force's first mission against this target. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and three because of losing formation in bad weather. Thirteen dropped 77 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 10,000 to 13,000 feet. The 38th Squadron got 74 per cent hits on aircraft installations on Eten and on seaplane base area on Dulben, starting fires at both places. The 392d got 100 per cent hits on tank farm area on Dulben. Terrific explosions, illuminating clouds over Truk, were visible 30 miles away on return. Two B-24's dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Oroloa Atoll from 11,500 to 12,500 feet, results unobserved; and two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Pompoa Torn from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, results unobserved. Only 21 airplanes were accounted for in mission report. AA and AW moderate to intense and inaccurate. Three
15 Mar. 44 (contd)

Searchlights were observed, but they were not coordinated with AA. One or two enemy aircraft made two passes at the 38th Squadron and one made one pass at the 392d. Two B-24's sustained minor damage from AA fire. Distances flown: 3,256 to 3,700 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report 167, 29 Mar. 44.)

15-16 Mar. 44

Maloelap - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 88 per cent on runways and buildings at airfield. Smoke was visible for 40 miles at 8,000 feet. One flight made individual minimum-altitude strafing and cannonading attacks, expending 12 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, getting numerous hits on radio station and starting fires on Engebi Island. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Distance flown: 1,110 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report 166, 17 Mar. 44.)

16 Mar. 44

Rear echelon of 45th Fighter Squadron departed Apra for Oahu. (History of 45th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

16-17 Mar. 44

Wotje - Eleven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in mission against Wotje from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje Island from 8,000 feet, two hitting seaplane base and six in water. Nine dropped 108 x 100-lb. GPs on Ormed Island from 7,500 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on installations on south shore. Smoke visible for 50 miles at 1,500 feet. No AA. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report 171, 18 Mar. 44.)

Mille - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Mille from Apra dropped 72 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with results not completely estimated because of cloud cover, although hits were observed on runways. No AA. One flight of three B-25's reamed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 36 x 100-lb. GPs on north parking strip from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 490 to 800 statute miles; second strike, 490 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 170, 18 Mar. 44.)

Mille - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mille from Tarawa dropped 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 50 per cent on island. No AA. All rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 36 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on installations and gun position. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 453 statute miles; second strike, 1,005 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 170-A, 19 Mar. 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION

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17 Mar. 44
Ground echelon of 392d Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Apamama on 11 March 1944. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

17-18 Mar. 44

FONAPE - Nineteen B-24's of 26th and 98th Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission against Fonape. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eleven dropped 150 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 36 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters from 2,200 to 7,500 feet, with hits on waterfront town, residential section, hangars, runways, and ore processing plant. Six dropped 90 x 100-lb. GPs and 18 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Kusaie from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, with hits on warehouses and waterfront area at Lele Harbor. One, because of illness of bombardier, dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. AA at Fonape moderate and accurate as to altitude but trailing. AA at Jaluit meager and inaccurate. No AA at Kusaie. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 173, 20 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Jaluit from Tarawa. One was abortive because of hydraulic leak. Ton dropped 8 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 6 x 1,000-lb. incendiaries on Emidj from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, with 17 per cent, 84 per cent, and 100 per cent hitting target respectively. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 785 to 1,040 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 172, 19 Mar. 44.)

18 Mar. 44

FONAPE - Two B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Engabi dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Fonape from 50 feet, and fired nine rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition, with hits on installations at Langar Island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Fonape Island, 24 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of 30th Bomb Group moved from Apamama to Kwajalein on this date and on 20 March 1944. (History of 30th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

18-19 Mar. 44

JALUIT - Thirteen B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Apamama dropped 72 x 100-lb., 16 x 500-lb.; and 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,000 feet. The 100- and 500-pounders landed on Tinie and Emidj, but the 1,000-pounders went in the water. AA moderate to meager, and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 939 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 175, 20 Mar. 44.)

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JALUIT - Five B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and experimental cannonading mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 58 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emdj from 7,800 to 8,000 feet, with 21 hitting land and 37 falling in the water. Four B-25's, after dropping their bombs, proceeded on past target and dropped a slick about five miles off shore to aid in range estimation in an experimental cannonading attack. They then returned, commencing their attack about five miles from the target at an altitude of 500 feet, and breaking away approximately three miles from the target. They fired 73 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition, with 25 hitting in general target area and 48 falling short. Crews reported that range estimation was very difficult, and that the slicks could not be seen during runs. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 175-A, 21 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - One B-24 of 43lst Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 10,000 feet, then photographed Majuro. AA at Mille meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,158 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Photographic Mission, 21 Mar. 44.)

WAKE - Twenty-one B-24's of 27th and 392d Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission against Wake from Kwajalein. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Nineteen dropped 55 x 1,000-lb. and 72 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wake Island from 12,000 to 17,000 feet. Of the 1,000-pounders, 30 per cent hit boat basin and tank farm, and 20 per cent of the 500-pounders hit the same target. Cloud coverage interfered with bombing. Fire in tank farm visible for 30 to 35 miles at 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One B-24 dropped 5 x 1,000-lb. GP's on Wotje from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Crews reported that at least 50 per cent of the 1,000-lb. bombs appeared to be duds. Investigation on return to base revealed that all crater pins had been pulled and the arming wires were still in the airplanes. Distance flown: 2,400 to 2,896 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 174, 22 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloelap from Apanama dropped 66 x 100-lb., and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroe from 8,600 to 9,300 feet, with all bombs except 12 hitting on or near runways and gun positions, and those 12 fell on inland. Smoke was visible for 40 miles at 2,000 feet. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 176, 20 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT-MILLE - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emdj from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent in storage and barracks.
area. White and gray smoke was visible for 10 miles at 8,500 feet. AA flak was heavy and inaccurate. AA flak and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. One B-25 dropped 6 x 500-lb. and 6 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille, 50 per cent on land. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 415 to 630 statute miles; second strike, 420 to 675 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 181, 22 Mar. 44.)

Mille - One B-24 of A31st Bomb Squadron dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 9,500 feet, destroying three AA positions. It then photographed Mille and Majuro. No AA. Distance flown: 1,158 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Photographic Mission Report, 21 Mar. 44.)

Jaluit - Twelve B-25's of 410th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. and 105 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 7,200 to 6,900 feet, with hits on radio station and pier west of radio station. Black smoke visible for 20 miles. AA flak and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 177, 21 Mar. 44.)

Mille - One B-25 of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 9,900 feet, with results unobserved. No AA. It roared at Majuro and on return trip dropped 12 x 100-lb. GP's from 10,000 feet on Mille, 100 per cent on runway. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 410 statute miles; second strike, 410 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 22 Mar. 44.)

Mille-Makelap - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Anamama dropped 145 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 12,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Smoke visible for 15 miles at 10,000 feet. AA flak and inaccurate, causing no damage. They landed at Anamama, and nine went out again. Five dropped 75 x 100-lb. GP's on Tarawa from 12,000 feet, 40 per cent on target; and four dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Wotje from 12,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Tarawa meager and inaccurate. No AA at Wotje. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 540 statute miles; second strike, 1,800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Unnumbered Mission, 29 Mar. 44.)

Ponape - Eleven B-24's of 90th Bomb Squadron and 11 of A31st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Tarawa. Two were abortive because of engine and mechanical trouble. Fifteen dropped 60 x 500-lb. incendiaries and 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 7,500 to 12,000 feet, with hits observed in wooded area, barracks area, and hangar area. Smoke visible for 35 miles at 10,000 feet. Two dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP's and 6 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Kusaie from...
7,500 to 10,000 feet, starting fire on pier at Lele Harbor. Two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Mokil Island from 7,500 to 9,000 feet, with slight hitting building area and four in water. One dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP's on Pingelap Island from 10,100 feet, with results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate at Pohnape. No AA at Kusaie, Mokil, or Pingelap. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 179, 23 Mar. 44.)

MALOLOAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloalop from Tarawa dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,500 to 10,500 feet. Hits were scored on northern part of island and in south barracks area, although 36 x 100-pounders went in the water. Smoke was visible for 15 miles at 10,000 feet. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 955 to 1,088 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 178, 24 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Ten B-25's of 487th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mille from Aparama. One was abortive because of failure of bomb release. Mils dropped 108 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 82 per cent on target. Black smoke was visible for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Six airplanes landed at Engobi, and four at Kwajalein. Distance flown: 646 to 1,005 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 182, 5 Apr. 44.)

MILLE - Two B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 15 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. They landed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP's on Mille from 10,000 feet. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 360 statute miles; second strike, 440 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Mille Island, 24 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of the 38th Bomb Squadron moved from Makin to Kwajalein. (History of 38th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Aparama. One was abortive due to bomb-release failure over target. Eleven dropped 130 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,500 to 9,100 feet, 36 per cent on target. Explosions and fires were observed. Black smoke visible for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 966 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 180, 25 Mar. 44.)

WAKE - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wake from Kwajalein. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eighteen dropped
23 Mar. 44
(contd)
81 x 500-lb., and 54 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Wake Island from 13,000 to 16,300 feet. with 60 per cent of former and 50 per cent of latter hitting boat basin and tank farm areas. One B-24, dropped 9 x 500-lb. GPs on Rongelap from 8,300 feet, 100 per cent on target. One dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Wotje from 1,500 feet, 100 per cent hits. AA at Wake intense and accurate. No AA at Rongelap or Wotje. Two B-24's received minor damage and one officer was killed. Distance flown: 2,450 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 183, 26 Mar. 44.)

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 458th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Eniwetok. Four dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs on new airfield at Ponape from 8,500 feet, and five dropped 20 x 500-lb. GPs on old airfield from 9,000 to 11,000 feet. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Ponape Island, 6 Apr. 44.)

23-24 Mar. 44

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 458th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Eniwetok. One abortive because of malfunction of bomb release. Six dropped 34 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape Island from 12,000 feet, with results unobserved. One made second attack from 90 to 100 feet, firing 17 rounds of 75-mm. and 2,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at buildings and personnel on airstrip. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 feet on Nikaalap Aru, Ant Island, 100 per cent on buildings. AA at Ponape moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 185, 6 Apr. 44.)

MALULAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa. One abortive because bomb release was not in proper slot. Eleven dropped 8 x 500-lb. and 103 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 7,700 to 11,000 feet, with results largely obscured by cloud coverage. Meager and inaccurate. AA caused minor damage to one B-25. All airplanes returned at Majuro and on return trip dropped 4 x 1,000-lb., 4 x 500-lb., and 108 x 100-lb. GPs on Enid from 7,300 to 9,000 feet, with hits near radio station and seaplane hanger. Red flames and black smoke visible for 20 miles at 9,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 700 statute miles; second strike, 550 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 184, 1 Apr. 44.)

24 Mar. 44

SHIPPING - Three B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in mission from Engebi against reported enemy shipping. Shipping not sighted. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 21 Apr. 44.)

Forward echelon of the 45th Fighter Squadron departed Makin for Oahu. (History of 45th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)
24 Mar. 44
Ground echelon of the 98th Bomb Squadron departed Tarawa, and air echelon moved from Tarawa to Makin. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

24-25 Mar. 44
JALUIT - Thirteen B-25s of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Jaluit from Tarawa. Six dropped 70 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emadi, 100 per cent on gun positions and storage area. Two dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Ainsman, all in water. Four dropped 48 x 100-lb. GPs on Tinjet, 12 on land and 36 in water. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Three airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 36 x 100-lb. GPs on Tinjet from 9,500 feet, 50 per cent on small fuel dump and 50 per cent in water. AA meager and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25.
Distances flown: first strike, 525 to 825 statute miles; second strike, 615 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 185, 6 Apr. 44.)

25 Mar. 44
Ground echelon of the 30th Bomb Group arrived at Kwajalein. (History of 30th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

25-26 Mar. 44
PCNAPE - Thirteen B-25s of 48th Bomb Squadron, escorted by 14 F4U's, in daylight mission over Ponape from Eniwetok. Three dropped 36 x 120-lb. frag clusters on new airfield from 800 feet, 100 per cent on runways, and fired 37 rounds of 75-mm. and 10,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Ten dropped 48 x 100-lb. GPs, 36 x 120-lb. frags and 36 x 100-lb. incendiaries on old airfield from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and installations. AA and SI moderate and inaccurate. Interception by 15 Zokes and Tons who were airborne when formation arrived over Ant Atoll. A running fighter lasted about 45 minutes. Fighters seemed aggressive, although inexperienced and of poor ability. Our evasive tactics consisted of speed, turns, and a low-level tight formation. Four Zokes were destroyed in the air and two were probably destroyed. One B-25 received minor damage. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 189, 11 Apr. 44.)

MALCEAP - Fifteen B-25s of 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Malceap from Apsama. One was abortive because of losing formation in front. Ten dropped 40 x 500-lb.
25-26
Mar. 44
(contd)
GP bombs on Taroa from 9,500 feet, 50 per cent on island. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Ollot from 10,000 feet, 50 per cent on island, and fired five rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. One B-25 with engine trouble dropped 4 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille from 8,000 feet, results unobserved. AA at Taroa and Ollot meager to moderate and inaccurate, and at Mille meager and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 900 to 1,110 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 188, 1 Apr. 44.)

26 Mar. 44
PONAPE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron, escorted by 12 F4U's, in daylight attack on Ponape from Eniwetok. Because of rain squalls and cloud cover over new airfield which was primary target, secondary and last resort targets were attacked. Four dropped 28 x 120-lb. frag clusters on Ponape Town from 800 feet, 100 per cent on target area, and fired 26 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,700 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. Four dropped 48 x 120-lb. frags on industrial plant from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA intense and accurate from Ponap Island, intense and inaccurate from Langar Island. While leaving Ponape Town, the first flight was attacked by one Zeke which shot down one B-25. Two additional B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 191, 13 Apr. 44.)

Air echelon of the 292d Bomb Squadron moved from Apanana to Kwajalain. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of the 27th Bomb Squadron moved from Makin to Kwajalain. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

26-27
Mar. 44
JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 144 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Eudit from 8,100 to 8,900 feet. Bombs were dropped on land airplane and all fell short of targets, although only 16 went in the water. Hits were scored on AA position near radio station. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. All airplanes reassembled at Majuro and on return dropped 120 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Eudit from 8,000 to 7,500 feet. Results were largely undetermined, although hits were observed in vicinity of seaplane hangars. One airplane failed to drop bombs when over target because bomb switches were not turned on. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 535 statute miles; second strike, 535 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 190, 13 Apr. 44.)

27-28
Mar. 44
MALOEPE-MILLE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 72 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,000 to 10,800 feet, with hits on runways

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and service apron. AA meager to moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two airplanes. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 105 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille from 9,500 to 12,000 feet, with all bombs hitting island. Gray and black smoke visible 10 miles away at 4,000 feet. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 650 statute miles; second strike, 425 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 192, 1 Apr. 44.)

MILLE-WALCHER-WONKE - Three B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight armed reconnaissance from Tarawa. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroe from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. One dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. SAs on Wotje from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA at Wotje or Mille. Meager and inaccurate AA at Taroe. None of the B-24's 52-1, 000-1, 162 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 194, 29 Mar. 44.)

PONAPE - Three B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in strafing and search mission over Ponape from Eniwetok. Because of weather over Ponape, they fired nine rounds of 75-mm. and 1,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at Pakic from 200 feet, then strafed Ujelang with five rounds of 75-mm. and 300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Meager AA from Ujelang caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 193, 30 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Eight B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Engebi dropped 96 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emdij from 9,500 to 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on or near target. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. The airplanes landed at Apanama. Distance flown: 1,040 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 1 Apr. 44.)


ROMELAP - One B-24 of Headquarters VII Bomber Command, enroute from Kwajalein to Eniwetok, dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Raggelap from 8,200 feet. No AA. Distance flown: 486 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 28 Mar. 44.)

TRUK - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and 11 of 38th Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk from Kwajalein. Three were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions and one because of illness of crew member. The remainder bombed a
28-29 Mar. 44 (contd)

follows: 162 x 100-lb. GP bombs and five flares on Honon from 10,500 feet; 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Udot from 12,000 feet; 110 x 100-lb. GP and five flares on Etomo from 9,500 to 11,000 feet; 60 x 100-lb. GP and five flares on Dablon from 9,400 to 10,000 feet; 60 x 100-lb. GP on Uwoon from 11,500 to 12,000 feet; and 50 x 100-lb. GP and five flares on Misawa from 10,400 to 10,500 feet. Estimated that 85 per cent of total bomb load of 590 x 100-lb. GPs and 20 Mk-6 flares fell on targets. One lone fire vixcel on Honon from 70 miles at 9,500 feet. AA and AW intense and inaccurate. Four to six searchlights were observed. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,180 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 192, 29 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOEELAP - Three B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apamama dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj, with 10 hitting lagoon and one falling on the beach. No AA. All rearmed at Majuro, and on return trip dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroe from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways, and fired five rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 608 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 202, 1 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOEELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apamama. Eight dropped 7 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs and 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,400 to 9,500 feet. The target was overhit because of delayed action of 50-cal. ammuni. No AA at Majuro and on return trip dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. SAPs on Aone from 8,200 feet, 100 per cent on radio station area. AA 'neglected and inaccurate. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return, eight dropped 35 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroe from 3,500 to 3,700 feet, with hits on airfield, and four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille from 9,900 feet, 100 per cent on runways. AA at Taroe moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 609 statute miles; second strike, 489 to 727 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 202-4, 10 Apr. 44.)

MILLE-MALOEELAP - Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission dropped 2 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 10,000 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA 'neglected and inaccurate, causing no damage. They rearmed at Majuro, and on return dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroe from 9,950 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA 'neglected and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 445 statute miles; second strike, 330 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 6 Apr. 44.)

29 Mar. 44 JALUIT - Three B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron and three of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Kwajalein dropped 36 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,300 to 8,500 feet, with all bombs except 3 of the 100-pounders...
hitting target area. No AA. Airplanes landed at Apanama and
Tarawa. Distance flown: 645 to 730 statute miles. (F/E VII
BC Special Mission, Emidj Island, 6 Apr. 44.)

Air echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron moved from Tarawa to Eniwetok.
(History of 26th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

29-30
Mar. 44

PONAPE — Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight
mission against Ponape from Engebi dropped 35 x 100-lb. GP
bombs from 50 feet, and fired 28 rounds of .75-mm. and 5,000
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The B-25's were preceded over
the target by two flights of P-40's. Large fires were started
in warehouse area. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor
damage to one B-25 and wounding one officer and one enlisted
man. Distance flown: 805 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special
Mission, Ponape Island, 8 Apr. 44.)

RONGELAP — Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight
mission against Rongelap from Kwajalein dropped 21 x 100-lb.
GP bombs from 9,970 feet, 100 per cent on radio station area,
starting large fires visible for 35 miles at 9,500 feet. No AA.
Airplanes landed at Engebi, rearmed, and returned for
another attack, but attack was not made because of activity
on Rongelap. It was decided not to attack to avoid any
possible interference with landing troops. No AA. Distances
flown: first strike, 495 statute miles; second strike, 495
statue miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission, Rongelap Atoll,
6 Apr. 44.)

MALOELAP-JALUIT — Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in
daylight mission from Tarawa. One was abortive because of
engine trouble. Eight dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs and
6 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Tarca from 8,200 to 9,000 feet,
100 per cent on island. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on
Wotje from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. AA meager
and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Eleven
airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 44 x 500-
lb. GP's on Emidj from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with hits on AA
positions and radio station area. Results were largely un-
determined. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage.
Distances flown: first strike, 635 to 770 statute miles;
second strike, 555 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
203, 10 Apr. 44.)

30 Mar. 44

TRUK — Twenty-one B-24's of 27th and 93rd Bomb Squadrons in
night mission against Truk from Kwajalein and Eniwetok. One
was abortive because of mechanical malfunctioning. All air-
planes carried 100-lb. GP bombs. The 27th Squadron, bombing
from 9,000 to 13,000 feet, dropped 202 on Param, 90 per cent
on target; 52 on Dublon, 100 per cent on target; 30 on Fejan,
100 per cent on target; and 30 on Ponape, 50 per cent on target.
30 Mar. 44
(contd)

The 98th Squadron, bombing from 10,000 feet, dropped 260 on Dublon seaplane base, 100 per cent on target; 40 on Uman, results unobserved; and 40 on Honen, results unobserved. AA meager to intense, but inaccurate. Twenty searchlights were observed. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,543 to 2,366 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 196, 2 Apr. 44.)

30-31
Mar. 44

WOTUP-MILLE - Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Kwajalein dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ormed Island from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in barracks area, with smoke from fires observed for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. No AA. Rearmed at Majuro and on return dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP's from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on AA positions on north tip of island. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 375 statute miles; second strike, 415 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 6 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALÊLAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight strike from Tarawa dropped 72 x 100-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Tiniot from 8,500 to 10,500 feet. Only a few hits were scored, although these started fires. All airplanes re-armed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 47 x 500-lb. GP's on Tarawa from 8,500 to 10,400 feet, and 11 x 500-lb. GP's on Tiniot from 10,000 feet. Hits were observed on Tarawa turning circle. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 525 to 750 statute miles; second strike, 525 to 635 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 204, 6 Apr. 44.)

31 Mar. 44

TRUK - Thirteen B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk from Eil Maket. One was abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Seventeen dropped 660 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mores from 8,000 to 13,000 feet, with 478 hitting airfield, and 144 hitting seaplane base, starting two large fires and 20 to 30 small ones visible for 60 miles at 11,000 feet. Three dropped 120 x 100-lb. GP's on Dublon from 8,500 to 10,500 feet, 68 on seaplane base and 28 on town. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP's on unidentified island, results undetermined. AA and AW meager to intense, and inaccurate. Approximately 22 searchlights were observed. Both squadrons were intercepted by one airplane each, causing minor damage to two B-24's. Distance flown: 1,530 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 197, 12 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Tarawa on 27 March 1944. (History of 431st Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)
31 Mar. - 9,000 to 9,700 feet, 100 per cent on Panape Town and old airfield. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage.
1 Apr. 44
Distance flown: 980 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report 47-4, 11 Apr. 44.)

MALCE LAP-JALUIT - Thirteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron and three of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apanama. One was abortive because of fuel leak. Fifteen dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarea from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, 50 per cent on target area. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Rearmed at Majuro and on return dropped 54 x 500-lb. GPs on Enidj from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent on or near targets. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 570 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 205, 7 Apr. 44.)
1 Apr. 44

POMAPA - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight low-level bombing and strafing mission over Pomapa. They dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 26 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters from 500 feet and fired 21 x 75-mm. shells and 2,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at enemy aircraft and barracks areas. At least two barracks were demolished and large fires were started. AA meager and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 940 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report 47-5, 11 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - Lieutenant B-24's of 38th and 392d Bomb Squadrons assigned mission against Truk. Four were abortive because of navigational error. Fourteen dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 60 x 500-lb. incendiaries from 10,000 to 14,000 feet, starting fires at Dublon and in tank farm area. Three fighters, including one twin-engine airplane, intercepted. Airplanes also opposed by meager and inaccurate AA and searchlights. None of the B-24's was damaged. One B-24 hit Pomapa with 5 x 500-lb. bombs. Maximum distance flown: 2,830 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 182, 3 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 43lst Bomb Squadron arrived at Enewetak. (History of 43lst Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

1-2

MAGCULAP—JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 489th Bomb Squadron assigned to shuttle mission over Magculap and Jaluit. One airplane was abortive because of engine trouble. Eleven dropped 108 x 100-lb. GP and 4 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Tarvo from 8,000 to 8,500 feet. The airplanes reamed at Jaluit and on return to Tarvo dropped 64 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Elijoj from 8,000 to 8,500 feet. AA from both places meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 535 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 203, 7 Apr. 44.)

2 Apr. 44

TRUK - Twenty-two B-24's of the 27th and 48lst Bomb Squadrons in night missions against Truk from Enewetak dropped 164 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 60 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters from 10,000 to 12,000 feet on Dublon radio station and industrial area. In additional B-24 dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Pomapa from 8,500 feet. AA meager to intense, but inaccurate. Searchlights erratic. Interception by two to three night fighters. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distances flown: Enewetak to Truk, 1,830 statute miles; Enewetak to Truk, 2,236 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 192, 12 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 98th Bomb Squadron and air echelon of 48lst Bomb Squadron arrived at Enewetak. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44; History of 48lst Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)
JALUIT-MALOLOP - Twelve B-25's of 393rd Bomb Squadron took off from Tarawa for daylight strike at Jaluit. Five airplanes were abortive because of the weather, and one jettisoned bombs after leaving target. Six dropped 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs on bridge from 9,500 to 9,700 feet, with 55 hitting land, destroying a bridge and probably destroying a large building and gun position. Seven B-25's roamed at Majuro, and on return trip dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, with hits on gun position and runway. AA at Jaluit monger and inaccurate, and at Maloolep, monger and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Distances flown: first strike, 550 statute miles; second strike, 225 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 207, 11 Apr. 44.)

3 Apr. 44
TOKU - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Twenty B-24's dropped 238 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 14,000 feet, falling as follows: 65 on Eten Island airfield, 120 on Dablon Island, and the remainder in the water or unobserved. AA and AN monger and inaccurate. Three B-24's reported interception by one enemy airplane each. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,400 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA and no interception. None of the B-26's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,550 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 209, 13 Apr. 44.)

3 Apr. 44
PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron (old and new runways) at Ponape, dropping 56 x 120-lb. fragmentation cluster, 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs, in addition to firing 83 rounds of 75-mm. and 8,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and accurate, causing slight damage to four airplanes. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report No. 47-6, 12 Apr. 44.)

3 Apr. 44
MALOLOP - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloolep dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, with all but two hitting target area. Smoke from fires visible for 10 miles at 10,000 feet. No AA. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 8 Apr. 44.)

4 Apr. 44
PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in low-level bombing and strafing mission over Ponape. Old and new airfields were hit from 100 to 600 feet with a total of 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs, and 36 x 120-lb. fragmentation cluster. In addition 40 x 75-mm. cannon shells were fired and 5,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition were expended strafing. Large fires were started. AA from gun monger and inaccurate, but from AN moderate and accurate causing minor damage to three airplanes. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report 47-7, 12 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOLOP - Twelve B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron and three of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight shuttle mission. On the first strike three airplanes dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs.
Apr. 44  

on Aincara Island from 10,000 feet, with hits around radio tower; and eight dropped 38 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Eilidj from 9,500 to 11,000 feet, with 38 hitting island, results undetermined. All airplanes returned at Majuro, and on return to Aincara dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarac from 9,500 to 11,000 feet, in addition to strafing with 350 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Fifty-five of the bombs landed on island, with results undetermined. AA and AN at Jaluit meager and inaccurate. AA at Maleqap meager to moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: first strike, 600 statute miles; second strike, 700 statute miles. (P/E VIII BC Mission Report 203, 9 Apr. 44.)

4 Apr. 44

TRUE = Twelve B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 26th Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk. One abortive due to mechanical malfunction. Sixteen dropped 220 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters and 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Dublon and Noom from 9,000 to 12,500 feet, 88 per cent on targets. One B-24 dropped 12 x 600-lb. GP bombs on Pemane from 11,200 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA and AN at Truk varied from meager to intense, but were inaccurate. There were 7 to 15 inaccurate searchlights at Truk, and interception by 2 to 4 night fighters of which two were destroyed. Two B-24's lost seen over target, did not return. No AA or interception at Pemane. Distance flown 2,278 statute miles. (P/E VIII BC Mission Report 201, 10 Apr. 44.)

PCEAPE = Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine KFC's, in second attack on Pemane, dropping 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 500 to 1000 feet. In addition, they expended 68 rounds of .75-cal. cannon and 9,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. FIrore were started. Moderate and accurate AA caused minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 250 statute miles. (P/E VIII BC Mission Report N-132, 10 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALEPAT = Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron dropped 68 x 100-lb. GP bombs on and 24 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters on Jaler Island (Jaluit) from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, setting large explosion and several fires. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. All airplanes returned at Majuro. On the return trip, 11 of them dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarac (Maleqap) from 6,000 to 9,000 feet, and one dropped four 500-lb. GP's on Millo from 8,000 feet. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 554 statute miles; second strike, 656 statute miles. (P/E VIII BC Mission Report N-131, N-132, 16 Apr. 44.)

6 Apr. 44  

Ground echelon of 11th Bomb Group arrived at Eniwaij, having departed Tarac on 23 March 1944. (History of 11th Bomb Group, Apr. 44.)
MALAOIAP-JALUIT - B-25's of 393rd Bomb Squadron dropped
1 x 4,000-lb. SAP bombs and 102 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa
from 9,500 to 10,500 feet; causing large fires. Maggcr
and inaccurate AA caused no damage. All airlanes landed at Majuro.
On the return trip, 11 B-25's dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on
Emi'ils from 8,000 to 10,500 feet. Maggcr and inaccurate AA
caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 546 statute
miles; second strike, 636 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission
Report N-154, K-155, 15 Apr. 44.)

6 Apr. 44
WAKE - Eleven B-25's of the 27th Bomb Squadron and 12 of the
392d attacked Waka from Majuro. Three airlanes were
abortive. The remainder dropped 182 x 500-lb. GP bombs on
Waka Island and 16 x 500-lb. GP's on Peale Island from 10,500
to 14,500 feet. Hits were scored on runways and dispersal
areas on Waka and in seaplane base on Peale. No AA and no
interception. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII
EC Mission Report N-209, 10 Apr. 44.)

POHAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 18 x 500-lb,
GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Ponomo from
500 feet, and in addition fired 78 rounds of 75-mm. cannon and
10,460 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Smoke from fires was
visible for 16 miles at 200 feet. Magncr and accurate AA
caused minor damage to one airlane. Distance flown: 750
statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-158, 16 Apr. 44.)

6-7
JALUIT-MALAOIAP - Twelve B-25's of the 68th Bomb Squadron and
three of the 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on
Jaluit from 10,000 feet and 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Taroa from
2,000 to 11,000 feet. Two rounds of 75-mm. shells were fired at Jaluit, and three at Taroa. Of the bombs dropped at Jaluit, 85
per cent hit the target area; and all but one of the bombs
dropped on Taroa hit the target. Moderate and inaccurate AA
caused no damage. All airlanes landed at Majuro and on the
return to Apron dropped 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa,
100 per cent hits. Moderate and accurate AA caused minor
damage to one B-25. Distance flown: first strike, 801 statute
miles; second strike, 720 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission
Report N-139, 12 Apr. 44.)

POHAPE - Eight B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb,
and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponomo from 500 to 10,400 feet.
Forty-three rounds of 75-mm. cannon and 9,100 rounds of .50-cal.
machine gun ammunition were expended. Damage was undetermined.
Maggcr and inaccurate AA and AI caused minor damage to one airlane.
Distance flown: 750 to 800 statute miles. (F/E VII
EC Mission Report N-139, 18 Apr. 44.)

7-8
MALAOIAP-JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped
180 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with
all but 12 hitting on or near target. Magncr and accurate AA
caused minor damage to one airlane and moderate damage to two
airplanes. All B-25's returned at Majuro. On the return trip, eight B-25's dropped 21 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 30 x 100-lb., incendiary clusters on Eaidji and Jabor from 7,500 to 8,500 feet. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 625 statute miles; second strike, 540 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-140, M-141, 15 Apr. 44.)

8 Apr. 44
TRUK - Twelve of the 20 B-24's from 26th and 431st Bomb Squadrons scheduled to hit Truk dropped 114 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 16,000 feet. Hits were observed on Dublon Town, dock and fuel storage areas. Other hits unobserved because of the weather. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Orujuk from 5,000 feet; one dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on old airfield at Ponsap from 10,000 feet; one dropped three 500-lb. GP's on radio station at Ujelang and returned nine to base; one, because of delayed take-off, bombed Moken airstrip two hours after the main action with 12 x 500-lb. GP's from 7,000 feet; and four airplanes jet-tisoned 48 x 500-lb. GP's. There was no interception and AA caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-210, 17 Apr. 44.)

PONASE - Four B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine F4Us, dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponsap from 9,000 feet, with results unobserved because of cloud cover. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 750 to 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-142, 15 Apr. 44.)

8-9
MALKEPA-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,500 feet on Taroa in four flights, 83 per cent in target. Runways were observed to be inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. All aircraft returned at Majuro. Of these, six dropped 22 x 500-lb. GP's on Eaidji from 9,000 feet in two flights and five dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP's on Jabor from 9,400 feet in two flights. One remained at Majuro because of engine trouble. Meager AA caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 640 statute miles; second strike, 535 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-143, M-144, 16 Apr. 44.)

POCANE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by 3 Marine F4Us, in low-level bombing and strafing mission dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb., incendiary clusters on Laboror's Camp on Jedaj Peninsula from 500 feet, starting many fires. They expended 60 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 810 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-145, 15 Apr. 44.)

9 Apr. 44
Air echelon of 98th Bomb Squadron joined ground echelon at Kwajalein. (History of 98th Bomb-Squadron, Apr. 44.)
9 Apr. 44
MALOELAP: NOTJE-SALE - Three B-24's of 47th Bomb Squadron made photo recon missions of Okadu, Notje, Taroa, and Mille. Eighteen 500-lb. GPs were dropped on Taroa from 11,000 to 12,000 feet, destroying several buildings. No AA. Distance flown: 862 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-212, 13 Apr. 44.)

9-10 Apr. 44
JALUIT-MALOELAP - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron and three of 47th Bomb Squadron in shuttle mission from Apamama. On first strike, four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tinjet from 11,000 feet, and strafed with 1,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; nine dropped 36 x 500-lb. GPs on Enida from 9,000 to 10,500 feet; and one dropped 4 x 500-lb. GPs on Jaluit Island from 8,000 feet. Results were largely unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. All airplanes roamed at Majuro, and on return trip dropped 56 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,800 to 11,500 feet, with hits on hangars and in barracks area. Barracks strafed with 1,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager, and accurate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distances flown: first strike, 550 statute miles; second strike, 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-146, M-147, 16 Apr. 44.)

10 Apr. 44
MALOELAP - Ops B-25 of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped four 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 10,300 feet, getting direct hit on hangar. AA from guns meager but accurate, and caused minor damage. Runways observed to be inoperational. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 10 Apr. 44.)

TRUE - Twenty-three B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons staged thru Enimtok to bomb Truk from 9,500 to 14,000 feet with 230 x 500-lb. GP bombs—100 fell on Duoden, 50 on Koon airstrip, 20 on Farem, 10 on Otta, 20 on islands near Otta, and balance were unobserved. AA meager but accurate. Interception by six night fighters. Two B-24's were lost when leaving target area. One B-24, because of engine trouble, hit Ponape with 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs. Distance flown: 2,350 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-211, 16 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, hitting runways on old airfield, with results unobserved. AA moderate and accurate but caused no damage. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-148, 15 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six additional B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron bombed Ponape with 24 x 500-lb. GPs from 500 to 9,500 feet, 65 percent in target areas on old airfield and fired 5,000 rounds of .50-cal. and 12 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA moderate and accurate causing minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-151, 18 Apr. 44.)
MALCELAJALUIT

10-11 Apr. 44
MALCELAJALUIT - Twelve B-25s of 48th Bomb Squadron hit Taroa with 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs in four flights from 7,500 to 11,000 feet, 60 per cent in target area, results undetermined. Runways appeared to be inoperational. AA meager and accurate, slightly damaging two airplanes. All aircraft landed at Majuro and rearmed. On the return flight three airplanes hit Jabor with 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 75 per cent in target area, causing two explosions; and nine bombs hit Emidj in two flights with 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 11,000 feet, 88 per cent in target area. One large explosion was observed. AA meager but accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane and minor injury to a bombardier. Distance flown: first strike, 628 statute miles; second strike, 537 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-149, M-150, 17 Apr. 44.)

11 Apr. 44
PONAPE - Six B-25s of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine F4U's, bombed Ponape with 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb. incendiaries from 500 to 1,000 feet, 75 per cent in target area. They fired 3,550 rounds of .50-cal. and 6 rounds of 75-mm ammunition. F4U's strafed small boats and airstrip. AA, NA, and SA intense and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-154, 21 Apr. 44.)

11-12 Apr. 44
JALUIT-MALCELAJ - Twelve B-25s of 336th Bomb Squadron in shuttle mission. Nine hit Emidj with 12 x 500-lb. and 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target, damaging radio station. Three hit Jabor with six 1,000-lb. GP from 9,500 feet 100 per cent in target area. No AA. All aircraft landed at Majuro and rearmed. On return flight they hit Taroa with 48 x 500-lb. GP from 9,700 feet, 96 per cent in target, damaging installations and gun positions. Runways reported inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first flight, 534 to 768 statute miles; second flight, 625 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-152, M-153, 17 Apr. 44.)

12 Apr. 44
SHIPPING - One B-24 of 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on beached ship at Hinta Reef from 4,000 feet, with all bombs hitting between ship and reef. Ship appeared to be deserted. No AA. Distance flown: 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 15 Apr. 44.)

12-13 Apr. 44
MALCELAJ-MALCELAJ - Twelve B-25s of 48th Bomb Squadron, over Taroa in four waves, dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Runways reported inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro and on return flight dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP on Emidj and dock and warehouse area on Jabor, 100 per cent in target. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. Distance flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 430 to 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report, 17 Apr. 44.)
TRUK - Twenty-three B-24's of 431st and 98th Bomb Squadrons in night attack on Truk from Eniwetok. One abortive because of engine trouble, and dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ujelang from 8,000 feet, results unobserved. Twenty-one dropped 250 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 2 H-29 photo-flash bombs on Mocn, Udet, Pofan, Dublon, Eton, Paran, Uman, and undetermined islands from 6,000 to 16,000 feet. Explosions and fires observed on Mocn and Paran. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPS on Ponape from 8,000 feet, results unobserved. AA at Truk was meager and inaccurate, and 10 to 12 searchlights generally ineffective. No AA at Ponape or Ujelang. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,420 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-213, 18 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Ten B-25's of 477th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine F4U's, in daylight mission against Ponape. One abortive because of engine trouble. Nine dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,600 to 9,600 feet. Hits were observed on runways and service apron at old airfield on Ponape Island, and in Laborer's Camp on Jokaj Peninsula. AA intense and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 800 to 1,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-160, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 477th Bomb Squadron bombed Ponape with 24 x 500-lb. GPS from 200 to 9,200 feet, hitting installations and runways at old airfield. Fired 35 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and accurate, causing major damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-157, 21 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALCEFA - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with 100 per cent of the former and 50 per cent of the latter on targets. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. All airplanes returned to Majuro and on return to Tarawa 11 dropped 122 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 7,800 to 10,500 feet, 70 per cent in target areas. One B-25, delayed at Majuro with engine trouble, dropped 12 x 100-lb. GPS on Hillo from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. The aircraft expended 300 rounds of .30-cal. and four rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 534 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-158, H-159, 17 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT - One B-24 of Hq. VII bomber Command, enroute from Kwajalon to Tarawa, hit Jaluit with 12 x 500-lb. incendiaries from 7,000 feet, 75 per cent in target, starting small fires on south part of Jabor. AA meager and inaccurate and airplane landed at Nullinix undamaged. Distance flown: 628 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 17 Apr. 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION
EMIERY ACTION - An estimated force of 12 enemy bombers attacked Emiratok from 9,000 to 23,000 feet. No bombs hit the island, and no damage or casualties resulted. Night fighters shot down two enemy bombers and damaged another. Two night fighters were lost. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Tarawa, 6 Apr. 44. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MAROELAP - Fourteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in shuttle mission. First strike: three airplanes dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jabor Town from 9,500 feet; seven airplanes dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. and 16 x 500-lb. GP's on Emidj from 8,000 to 10,500 feet; and four airplanes because of cloud coverage over Emidj dropped 2 x 1,000-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Taroa. AA at Emidj meager and inaccurate, at Taroa, moderate and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage and one crash-landed at Majuro due to operational difficulties. All airplanes reassembled at Majuro. Second strike: nine airplanes dropped 52 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,000 to 10,500 feet; and four dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP's on Mille from 10,500 feet. Results were unobserved. AA at Taroa meager and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. Distance flown: first strike, 950 statute miles; second strike, 600 to 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-161, M-162, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in medium and low altitude bombing and search mission from Emiratok. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on old airfield from 9,300 feet, starting fires. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on new airfield from 9,700 feet. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP's on small oiler and two armed escort vessels from 300 to 400 feet, and expended 11 rounds of 75-mm. and 1,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing them, damage undetermined. Three dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP's from 400 to 600 feet on another oiler and armed escort vessel, and fired 39 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Both vessels were hit and afire. One airplane remained at I point 25 miles southwest of Emiratok to direct rescue of downed fighter pilot. AA at Ponape meager and inaccurate. No AA from ships intense and accurate, causing major damage to one B-25 and minor damage to three. Distance flown: 800 to 1,000 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report '63, 23 Apr. 44.)

15-16 Apr. 44

MALOELAP-JALUIT - Thirteen B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron bombed Tarawa from 7,000 to 9,100 feet with 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent in target area, starting a large fire. AA passerby and inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes returned at Majuro. On the return flight, three B-25's hit Emeji with 11 x 500-lb. GP from 8,700 feet, 21 per cent in target area. Because of the weather over Jaluit, the other nine airplanes hit Mile with 36 x 500-lb. GP from 8,700-foot, 100 per cent in target area. AA passerby and inaccurate at both places, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 647 statute miles; second strike, 616 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Reports M-164, M-165, 21 Apr. 44.)

16 Apr. 44

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night strike against Truk. Fifteen airplanes dropped 136 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 24 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters on Meoan, Fefan, and Dublon from 13,000 to 20,000 feet. Because of bomb release difficulty and bad weather two B-24's dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP on Hinto Reef from 6,000 to 9,000 feet, and two dropped 12 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters and 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 12,500-foot. Darkness and cloud coverage made observation difficult, but it was estimated that 67 per cent of bombs dropped on Truk hit islands in the atoll. Many fires were observed, and fires were also observed on Ponape. AA passerby and accurate. One B-24 made water landing on return flight. Four crew members were rescued. Two airplanes were damaged in landing at Eniwetok. Distance flown: 2,396 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report M-24, 27 Apr. 44.)

16-17 Apr. 44

MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Apamakan hit Tarawa with 12 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 90 per cent in target area. AA passerby and caused no damage. All aircraft returned at Majuro and hit Jaluit with 48 x 500-lb. GP from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, 45 per cent in the target. There was no AA. Distances flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Reports M-167, M-168, 22 Apr. 44.)

17 Apr. 44

Air echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron which had been temporarily based at Eniwetok arrived at Kwajalein. The ground echelon had arrived from Tarawa on 14 April. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

17-18 Apr. 44

MALOELAP-MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 8,100 to 10,000 feet. All of the bombs landed in ocean offshore. AA from guns and inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes returned at Majuro and on return flight hit Mile with 24 x 1,000-lb. GP from 8,300 feet, 75 per cent in target area. One large fire was started 1,000 feet north of northern service apron. Black smoke could be seen for 25 miles at...
9,000 feet. AA fire was moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Hill was hit as last resort target because of overcast at Jaluit. Distances flown: first strike, 637 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-273, M-174, 23 Apr. 44.)

SAIPAN—Ten B-24's of 393d Bomb Squadron assigned to escort five VD9 FMAI photo planes in reconnaissance mission over Saipan, Tinian, and Agrihan from Eniwetak. Five B-24's were abortive. Five dropped 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Saipan, from 18,000 to 20,000 feet, with results unobserved. The airplanes were intercepted by 16 to 20 Zekas, Hamps, and Tanya, one of which was shot down and one probably shot down. AA from guns moderate and inaccurate. One B-24 was damaged to such an extent that it crashed-landed in water. The crew was picked up by a destroyer 23 April. Distance flown: 2,930 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-217, 24 Apr. 44.)

TRUK—Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetak in night mission against Truk. Two were abortive because of mechanical difficulties. Nine dropped 339 x 100-lb. demolition bombs and 4 x MK-6 flares on Truk from 10,000 to 13,500 feet—179 on Kneaken, 60 on Moen, 80 on Dublon, and 60 on an undetected island. Results undetermined because of darkness. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. demolition bombs on Futu (Hall Islands) from 10,300 feet, 100 per cent on island. No AA. Only one searchlight seen, and it was unable to place clouds. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-216, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPÉ—Six B-25's of 395th Bomb Squadron bombed Ponape from 11,000 feet with 12 x 1,000-lb. bombs, 100 per cent on old airfield, setting large fires. No AA. Distance flown: 905 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-172, 20 Apr. 44.)

PONAPÉ—Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight, medium and low altitude mission. Four dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on new airfield at Ponape from 9,700 to 10,000 feet. Two, bombing from 100 to 400 feet, dropped 500-lb. GP's as follows: one on new airfield, one on old airfield, six on shipping, and one on dock at Pohin Atoll. In addition to 36 rounds of 75-mm. and 900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition were fired at shipping and shore installations. AA moderate and inaccurate. AW and SA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 920 to 1,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-175, 23 Apr. 44.)

18-19
Apr. 44

WAKE—Three B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron based at Kwajalein searched the Wake area for reported shipping. Two returned abortive. The other failed to find shipping but dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on runway from 10,000 feet and took photos.
18-19 Apr. 44 (contd)

AA from guns intense and accurate. Later in the day, one B-24 of 87th Bomb Squadron on a special shipping search mission dropped 12 x 500-lb GP bombs on Emaidad from 9,000 feet. 80 per cent in target. AA meager and caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro, 11 rearmed and bombed Tarawa with 4 x 500-lb. GP from 9,500 feet. 60 per cent in target. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Runways appeared inoperational. Distances flown: first strike, 500 statute miles; second strike, 690 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Reports: M-170, 171, 30 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOLEAP - Twelve B-29's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emaidad from 9,000 feet, 80 per cent in target. AA meager and caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro, 11 rearmed and bombed Tarawa with 4 x 500-lb. GP from 9,500 feet, 60 per cent in target. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Runways appeared inoperational. Distances flown: first strike, 500 statute miles; second strike, 690 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Reports: M-170, 171, 30 Apr. 44.)

19 Apr. 44

TRUK - Twenty-two B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk. Two abortive because of engine trouble. Sixteen dropped a total of 3 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 103 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Rubicon and Koem from 8,500 to 16,000 feet, setting large fires and explosions. One airplane dropped 20 photo flash bombs and took 16 night photos. AA was from meager to moderate, but inaccurate, and caused no damage. Three aircraft, because of engine trouble, dropped 36 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Ponape from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, causing fires and explosions. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 2,348 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report: M-175, 25 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 395th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against new airfield at Ponape. One abortive because of engine trouble. Five dropped 10 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on new airfield from 10,000 to 10,500 feet. 100 per cent in target areas. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 995 to 1,068 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report: M-178, 22 Apr. 44.)

19-20 Apr. 44

JALUIT-MALOLEAP - Fourteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron bombed Emaidad from 10,000 feet with 56 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 82 per cent on target. Meager AA caused minor damage to one airplane. All aircraft returned at Majuro and on return flight dropped 56 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, and strafed with 1,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager to moderate, but caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 600 statute miles; second strike, 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Reports: M-176, 177, 29 Apr. 44.)

20 Apr. 44

WAKE - Twelve B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons searched Wake area for possible shipping. No shipping sighted. The bombers dropped 78 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emaidad, 78 per
20 Apr. 44 (contd)

cont in target area, and 36 of same type on Wake Island, 90 per cent in target area. Bombing altitude from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. No interception. AA moderate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,525 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-223, 22 Apr. 44.)

396th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Tarawa on 19 April. (History of 396th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

20-21 Apr. 44

MALULAP-JALUIT—Twelve B-25's of 220th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa dropped 2k x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on AA battery on Taroe from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return flight dropped 2k x 1,000-lb. GPs on AA battery on Emadi, 75 per cent in target area. Four 75-mm. HE shells fired at radio station south of Jabor, with results undetermined. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 650 statute miles; second strike, 538 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-179, M-180, 29 Apr. 44.)

21 Apr. 44

WOTJE—Eleven B-24's of 38th and 27th Bomb Squadrons at Kwajalein bombed Wotje with 6k x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,500 to 18,000 feet. Bombs hit barracks and magazine areas. No AA. Distance flown: 432 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-224, 24 Apr. 44.)

TRUK—Six B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein staged thru Ettuktok to bomb Truk from 10,000 to 12,000 feet with 2k x 100-lb. demolition bombs; 116 on runway and dispersal area on Moon; 40 in seaplane hangar area on Dublon; 40 on Tol; 14 in harbor, and 40 jettisoned because of rack failure. Fires were started on Moon and Dublon. Three night fighters intercepted. AA from guns and AW moderate to intense and accurate, but none of the aircraft were damaged. Eight to 10 searchlights were encountered. One additional B-24 abortive because of engine trouble. Distance flown: 2,398 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-218, 27 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE—Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Enogobi hit Ponape with 2k x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,500 feet, scoring hits on installations at both airfields. A little later four B-25's of same squadron bombed runways on both airfields. Ponape with 8k x 1,000-lb. bombs from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA on both strikes ranged from moderate to intense, but was inaccurate and caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 966 statute miles; second strike, 568 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 181, 23 Apr. 44; 184, 26 Apr. 44.)

The 47th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Aperama on 20 April. (History of 47th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)
21-22 Apr. 44

JALUIT-MALTAP - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Apamau bombed Emdj and Taroa on route to Majuro. Eight hit Emdj from 8,000 feet with 16 x 1,000-lb. bombs, and the other three hit Taroa with 6 x 1,000-lb. bombs. Meager AA at both places caused no damage. All airplanes returned at Majuro. On return trip, eight hit Taroa with 16 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, and the other three bombed Emdj with 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs, all of which landed in the water. Moderate and accurate AA at Taroa slightly damaged one airplane. Distances flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 610 to 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-182, H-183, 3 May 44.)

22 Apr. 44

WURE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 12,000 feet, with 12 hitting target and six in the water. No AA. Airplanes returned to Kwajalein, reared, and again dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 11,000 feet. Six of these hit runway intersection, and 12 went in the water. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 390 statute miles; second strike, 390 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-225, H-226, 25 Apr. 44.)

23 Apr. 44

WURE - Nine B-24's of 36th Bomb Squadron and three of 27th Bomb Squadron in night mission against Wotje. Ten dropped 60 x 500-lb. GPs on Wotje from 9,000 to 12,200 feet, 80 per cent on inland. One each dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on Coast Inland and on Kwajalein, with results unobserved. No AA. Distances flown: 1,096 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-227, 25 Apr. 44.)

22-23 Apr. 44

JALUIT-MALTAP-MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit, Maltap, and Mille. Six dropped 21 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emdj from 8,000 feet, 33 per cent in the target. Two each dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroa and Mille from 7,500 and 8,700 feet, 100 per cent in target. AA at Mille and Emdj meager and inaccurate, and at Taroa moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. All aircraft returned to Majuro. On return, six dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,700 to 9,000 feet, 50 per cent in target; and three each dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Emdj and Mille from 7,500 and 8,000 feet, 67 and 100 per cent in target, respectively. AA at Emdj and Taroa meager and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 540 to 731 statute miles; second strike, 430 to 655 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-185, H-186, 13 May 44.)

23 Apr. 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons at Kwajalein staged thru Eniwetok to bomb TRUK with 750 lb fragmentation clusters from 1,000 to 15,000 feet: 240 on
23 Apr. 44

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Bech-airfield, 85 per cent in target; 280 on Bech airfield, 90 per cent in target; 610 on southeast part of Bech, 100 per cent hits; 160 on Farsa airfield, 65 per cent hits; and 40 on unidentified island, 100 per cent hits. AA meager and inaccurate. Two single-engine enemy fighters observed airborne over target. None of the B-24's was damaged. Two B-24's because of mechanical trouble dropped 80 clusters on Ponape from 6,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA or interception. One B-24 unable to locate target dropped 40 clusters on Pulumut from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. Distance flown: 2,396 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-219, 28 Apr. 44.)

WOTJE — Two B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 80 x 100-lb. demolition bombs on Wotje from 14,500 to 15,000 feet, results unobserved. A third B-24 brought bomb load back to Kwajalein because of navigational trouble. Distance flown: 830 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-228, 27 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE — Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron bombed Ponape with 48 x 100-lb. and 4 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in targets on Langar Island, the barracks at the old airfield, and the dock area. AA meager and inaccurate. AA caused no damage. Runways on both airfields reported operational. Distance flown: 590 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-187, 25 Apr. 44.)

Air echelon of 46th Bomb Squadron moved from Apenama to Makin, and air echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron moved from Tarawa to Makin. (History of 46th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44; History of 820th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

23-24 Apr. 44

JALUIT—KALALAP — Eight B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin hit Emidj in two flights with 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 80 per cent on target. AA from guns meager and accurate, but caused no damage. All aircraft returned to Majuro, but one did not take off because of mechanical difficulty. On return flight, seven B-25's hit Tarawa with 16 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs in two flights from 9,300 to 10,000 feet, six of which hit target. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: first strike, 434 statute miles; second strike, 521 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-188, M-189, 30 Apr. 44.)

24 Apr. 44

PONAPE — Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi bombed Langar Island and new airstrip at Ponape from 10,000 feet with six 1,000-lb. bombs, results unobserved. AA moderate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 890 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-190, 26 Apr. 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION
The 41st Bomb Group arrived at Makin, having departed Tarawa on 23 April 1944. Ground section of 48th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Apenama on 22 April 1944. (History of 41st Bomb Group, Apr. 44; History of 48th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-WOTJE - Travo B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin bombed Eneid in three flights with 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 11,000 feet, 67 per cent in building area on south half of island. AA from guns meager and inaccurate. All aircraft returned to Majuro, but one did not take off because of mechanical trouble. On return trip, 11 B-25's dropped 22 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 to 11,000 feet. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 350 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII B Mission Reports M-191, M-192, 4 May 44.)

WOTJE - Travo B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein bombed Wotje with 96 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 90 per cent on island. Wotje was also hit by 11 B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron which dropped 74 x 1,000-lb. GP's from 8,500 to 10,000 feet. Neither squadron encountered AA. Distance flown: 361 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-229, 25 Apr. 44.)

GUAM - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok to escort seven VD3 FB4's on photo reconnaissance mission over Guam. Three were abortive because of engine trouble. Seven B-24's dropped 33 x 100-lb. bombs from 20,000 feet. No AA or interception, although many airplanes were observed on two airfields. All airplanes landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,700 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-231, 3 May 44.)

HALCETAP - EKevon B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 132 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, with an estimated 65 per cent in target area. Wotje was the primary target for this mission but it was completely closed in. One B-24 jettisoned 12 bombs because of engine trouble. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-230, 29 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - EKevon B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. Sixteen dropped a total of 300 x 100-lb. and 71 x 500-lb. fragmentation clusters, and 10 flares from 10,000 to 18,000 feet, with 98 falling on Moen, 84 on Ponan, 25 on Tol, 24 on Duklon, 84 on an unidentified island, and the remainder unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate, and searchlights inaccurate. Two or three night fighters were observed, but no passes were made at the formation. Three B-24's dropped 45 x 160-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. fragmentation clusters and five
25 Apr. 44  
(continued)

ALAROS on Pomapo from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. AV meager and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance from Pomapo to 2,455 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report E-220, 30 Apr. 44.)

FONAPE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi hit old and new airfields at Pomapo with 32 x 500-lb. bombs from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in targets. AA meager and inaccurate. Later eight additional B-25's of same squadron dropped 31 x 500-lb. GP's on Pomapo, 75 per cent in target area. AA intense but inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance from Pomapo: 875 to 975 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-193, 29 Apr., 4 May 44.)

25-26 Apr. 44

JALUTA-TOJIE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Makin were scheduled to bomb Emidj, but because of the complete overcast, only three dropped their bombs (6 x 1,000-lb. SAP's) on that objective. Three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 feet, 50 per cent in target; three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAP's on Tojor; and three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAP's on first island north of Tojor. No AA at Tojor, and only meager and inaccurate fire at Tojor. All aircraft returned at Makin and on return flight nine of them dropped 103 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,500 feet, 75 per cent hitting heavy AA positions; and three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAP's on Wotje from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in magazine and other earth covered structures in central section of island. Major AA from Emidj and none from Wotje. Distance from Pomapo: first strike, 650 statute miles; second strike, 650 to 690 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-194, M-195, 1 May 44.)

PONAPE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Pomapo dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet on Longar Island, and one bomb each on Tojor, Narak, and Lelap Islands. Large explosions observed on Longar Island. Undetermined number of rounds of 50-cal. ammunition used in strafing buildings on Atot and Peleliu Islands. AA intense and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance from Pomapo: 845 to 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-196, 30 Apr. 44.)

26 Apr. 44

PONAPE - Six B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron, having landed at Los Negros after mission over Guins on 25 April 1944, dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Pomapo from 9,000 feet, enroute to Kwalofin. Of those, 75 per cent hit Longar Island. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-24, delayed at Los Negros, returned to Kwalofin on 29 April 1944, and dropped 2 x 500-lb. GP's on Pomapo from 9,000 feet enroute. No AA. Distance from Pomapo: 1,775 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-232, 3 May 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION
SHIPPING - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and search mission from Engabi, sighted no shipping and returned back to base. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 2 May 44.)

JALUIT-KOJOE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin over Jaluit in three flights, dropping 114 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Enybor Island from 8,200 to 10,000 feet, 33 per cent in target area. AA was sporadic and inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes received no damage on return trip. One of them bombed jetty in three flights from 9,000 to 10,000 feet with 44 x 500-lb. GP's, 67 per cent in target. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 600 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports W-197, W-198, 1 May 44.)

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. Fourteen dropped 71 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 72 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Dalban from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, with 61 of the former and 53 of the latter falling on Dalban Town. Two dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP's on Hacun from 11,000 to 12,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Two dropped 2 x 500-lb. incendiaries and 2 x 500-lb. GP's on Eden from 13,000 feet, 75 per cent in hangar and shop areas. One dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP's on Paron from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. One dropped 11 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Paron from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. One airplane dropped 10 x 500-lb. bombs in lagoon because of bomb-release malfunction. AA moderate and inaccurate. Two B-24's received minor damage when bombs were released. Distance flown: 2,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-222, 1 May 44.)

PONAPE - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in search for shipping sighted no shipping, but dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponom from 10,500 feet, with 81 hitting target area. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 2 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engabi dropped 72 x 100-lb. bombs from 10,000 feet on old and new airfields at Ponom, with hits on runways and barracks. No AA. Distance flown: 935 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-199, 2 May 44.)

Ground echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Tarawa on 26 April 44. (History of 820th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-NAWAR - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron dropped 136 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,000 to 9,800 feet. Of these, 60 hit AA gun crews and dropped on hit barracks area on
Emb'dj, and 66 cent in the water. AA meager and inaccurate.
All aircraft returned at Majuro and on return trip dropped
12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Fatjo from 8,500 to 10,500 feet,
with 32 hitting in target area. No AA. Distances flown:
first strike, 425 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-200, M-201, 5 May 44.)

PONAPE - Five B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-
lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 10,000 to 12,000 feet, 100 per
cent on target. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate.
None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 850 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 202, 30 Apr. 44.)

28-29
JALUIT-MILLK - Twelve B-25's of 420th Bomb Squadron dropped
12 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Eniyor Islet from 8,000 to 8,700
feet, 17 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate.
Five airplanes landed at Majuro, and seven returned to Makin.
On return trip, five dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Millk
from 8,000 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA meager and in-
accurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown:
first strike, 425 to 590 statute miles; second strike, 300
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-203, M-204,
5 May 44.)

JALUIT - One B-24, of Headquarters VII Bomber Command dropped
12 x 500-lb. GP bomb on Emb'dj from 9,500 feet, 83 per cent
in target area. AA meager and inaccurate. Airplane reamed
at Maj and on return to Kwajaloon dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's
on Jabor and Eniyor, 100 per cent on targets. No AA. Distance
flown: 527 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report,
1 May 44.)

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th,
staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk. Ten of those from 431st
Squadron dropped 600 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters—160 on
Eton, 80 on Parac, 80 on Moen, 60 on Tel, and remainder un-
observed. Aircraft of 38th Squadron dropped 255 x 120-lb.
fragmentation clusters—150 on Eton, 110 on Moen, 50 on Dublon,
and five unobserved. Twelve searchlights were in action. AA
meager and inaccurate. Three unidentified aircraft airborne
over target. None of the airplanes was damaged. One B-24 of
431st was abortive because of engine failure and one bombed
Ponape with 40 x 120-fragmentation clusters. Distance flown:
2,442 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-222,
6 May 44.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron bombed Emb'dj with
77 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 14,000 to 15,000 feet, 39 hitting
across the center of the island and 38 falling in the lagoon.
AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 575 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-334, 7 May 44.)
29 Apr. 44

PONAPE - Four B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron hit Ponape with 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,800 feet, 100 per cent on runways and service apron at old airfield. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 590 to 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-205, 1 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 10,300 to 11,000 feet, damaging runways on old airfield and runways and revetments on new airfield. AA ranged from meager and inaccurate to intense and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-206, 2 May 44.)

29-30 Apr. 44

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin were over Jaluit in three flights, dropping 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Enyo at 7,800 to 8,000 feet, 90 per cent in buildings reported to house power plant for RDF station. No AA. Distance flown: 600 to 725 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-207, 5 May 44.)

30 Apr. 44

WAKE - Forty-two B-24's of 11th and 28th Bomb Groups, all based at Kuparul and all carrying 500-lb. GP bombs, in mission against Wake. Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron dropped 138 bombs from 10,500 to 11,600 feet, 95 per cent hitting installations; 10 of 392d Bomb Squadron dropped 90 bombs from 12,000 to 13,500 feet, 60 per cent hitting target area on Fosco Point; 10 of 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 90 bombs on barracks area on north end of Wake Island from 15,000 to 16,000 feet, 95 per cent in target; nine of the 95th dropped 79 bombs on Fosco Point and Wakes Island from 12,600 to 15,500 feet, 80 per cent in target area; and one airplane of Headquarters VII Bomber Command dropped nine 500-lb. bombs on Fosco Point from 15,000 feet. Moderate to intense AA was for the most part accurate, causing damage to one B-24 of the 27th and one of the 392d. The aircraft of the 26th Bomb Squadron encountered three single-engine fighters, which followed the formation for 20 minutes but made no passes. One B-24 of 26th abortive. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-233, 7 May 44.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin, over Enyo in four flights, dropped 14 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 per cent in building area thought to contain power plant for new RDF station. One other B-25 abortive because of mechanical failure. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-210, 8 May 44.)
30 Apr. 44

FOIAPE - Eight B-25s (of 14) flown from Enogobi bombed old and new airfields at Famaco with 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 feet, 75 per cent in target area. AA moderate but inaccurate. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report M-211, 3 May 44.)
1 May 44
JALUIT - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron attacked Jaluit in three flights. Two airplanes dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Enmidj from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP on Ennybok from 7,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP on Kabanboek from 7,500 feet, 83 per cent on target. AA from Enmidj meager and accurate, but ceased no damage. Distance flown: 578 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report M-212, 8 May 44.)

2 May 44
TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 35th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron dropped 61 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. 81 on Enon airfield with 95 per cent hits, 24 on Eton airfield with 90 per cent hits, and six on Enon or Dublon with 50 per cent hits. Eight aircraft of the 35th dropped 40 x 1,000-lb. GP's from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. 20 on Enon with 75 per cent hits, 10 on Eton with 75 per cent hits, five on Dublon, and five on an island thought to be Pohnpei. AA from meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Night to 10 searchlights in action. Two nightfighters were airborne. One B-24 received minor damage. One B-24 of the 431st Squadron, because of the illness of the co-pilot, bombed Pampa from 10,000 feet with 6 x 1,000-lb. GP's, causing a large fire in the town area. No AA or searchlights. Distance flown: 1,500 to 2,400 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report E-235, 6 May 44.)

2-3 May 44
JALUIT-NOTVE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin bombed Jaluit in three flights from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, dropping 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on radio station at Ainman Inland, 70 per cent in target area. No AA. All airplanes returned at Majuro and on return trip dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Notve from 8,000 to 9,200 feet, 65 per cent hitting in heavy AA battery on south tip of island. Runways appeared to be inoperational. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 420 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Reports M-213, M-216, 8 May 44.)

POHARU - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi bombed Pampa from 10,000 feet, dropping 23 x 500-lb. GP bombs on installations at old and new airfields. Both airfields reported inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate and ceased no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report M-212, 5 May 44.)

3 May 44
NOTVE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Notve from Kunjalokin. One abortive because of oil leak. Seven dropped 26 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Notve from 9,000 to 11,500 feet, 62 on island and 22 in water. Building at
3 May 44 (contd)

South end of taxi strip was blown up. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on the field south of Wotje from 8,500 feet, 50 per cent hitting the field. No AA. Distance flown: 350 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-239, 6 May 44.)

3-5 May 44

JALUIT-NOKE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 2 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Emudj from 8,000 to 8,800 feet, with 33 per cent in target area (AA positions) and 33 per cent in concrete magazines just west of target. AA meager and inaccurate to accurate, causing slight damage to one B-25. All airplanes returned to Majuro. On return trip they bombed Wotje in four flights with 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 56 per cent in target area, and 100 per cent on land. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 450 statute miles; second strike, 620 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Reports K-215, K-218, 8 May 44.)

4-5 May 44

JALUIT-NOKE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 2 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Emudj from 8,000 to 8,800 feet, with 33 per cent in target area (AA positions) and 33 per cent in concrete magazines just east of target. AA meager and inaccurate to accurate, causing slight damage to one B-25. All airplanes returned to Majuro. On return trip they bombed Wotje in four flights with 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 56 per cent in target area, and 100 per cent on land. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 450 statute miles; second strike, 620 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Reports K-220, K-221, 11 May 44.)

5 May 44

PONAPE - Forty B-24's of Headquarters VII Bomber Command and 11th and 30th Bomb Groups took off from Kwajalein and Eniwetok in daylight mission against Ponape. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Thirty-nine dropped a total of 353 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 11,000 to 16,500 feet. Of the 170 bombs dropped by the 431st and 98th Bomb Squadrons, 112 hit Ponape Town, 24 hit Hot Point, and 34 went in the water. Of 171 dropped by 38th and 392d Bomb Squadrons, 156 hit warehouse, dock, and military headquarters area, and 15 were unobserved. Of the 12 bombs blown up by the airplane from Headquarters VII Bomber Command, six fell in an undestroyed area along the water front and six went in the water. Large fires were reported. AA meager to moderate, inaccurate to accurate. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-24 received minor damage, and one B-24 of the 98th was not heard from again after taking off from Eniwetok. Distance flown: 1,100 to 1,400 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-236, 11 May 44.)

TARUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok in night mission against Taruk. Ten dropped 60 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 13,500 feet, with bombs falling on Etou, Pare, Duklen, Heca, and Tal. Nineteen searchlights ineffective. AA meager, AW moderate. No reported damage. One airplane jettisoned bombs and returned abortive. One other airplane unreported and considered missing. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-237, 10 May 44.)
5 May 44

PC1AFZ: Eight B-24's dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs on old and new airfields at Panapa from 10,000 to 10,500 feet, 40 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 834 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-219, 8 May 44.)

5-6 May 44

JALUIT-JALUIT: Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Mokin dropped 40 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet on magazines and earth covered structures in central portion of Mokin, 65 per cent in target. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. All aircraft returned at Nauru and on return trip bombed Etojo with 20 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs from 8,600 to 10,000 feet, 50 per cent on coastal defense gun emplacements near shore. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 490 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-222, 15-23, 11 May 44.)

6 May 44

WONIE - Thirteen B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kurekai dropped 100 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,000 feet, 95 per cent on target. AA and AA meager and inaccurate. One other airplane jettisoned bombs because of mechanical trouble and returned abortive. Distance flown: 2,611 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-241, 10 May 44.)

6-7 May 44

GUAM: Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and two of 431st Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok to escort six Navy PB4Y photo planes over Guam. Two B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 27 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Guam from 20,000 feet, with hits observed on Agana airfields and Sumay Town. AA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by 12 to 30 Zekos and Oscaros just after completion of photo-bomb run, with approximately 50 planes being made in 40-minute running fight, and approximately eight aerial bombs were dropped. Three Zekos and one Oscar were destroyed, one Zeko was probably destroyed, and four Zekos and two Oscars were damaged. Two B-24's returned without damage. All B-24's and Eniwetok B-24's returned safely. Distance flown: 2,725 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-240, 16 May 44.)

WONIE-JALUIT-TUKE: Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Mokin dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on magazine area at Wotje from 9,000 feet, 62 per cent in target. AA AA. All airplanes returned at Nauru and on return trip 11 of them dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 16 x 1,000-lb. SAP's on RDF station at Eniwetok, 30 per cent in target, getting three direct hits on southernmost installations. One B-25 abortive because of malfunction of landing gear. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-224, M-225, 13 May 44.)

7 May 44

TRUK: Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and nine of 38th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk.
7 May 44
(contd)

Fourteen dropped 2,245 clusters on Truk from 10,000 to 15,000 feet, hitting as follows: 159 on Moen, 80 on Etca, 80 on Puar, 42 on an unidentified island, and remainder uncorroborated. Five B-24's dropped 94 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on Ponape from 11,000 to 14,500 feet, with results uncorroborated. AA from Elten major and inaccurate. No AA from Ponape. Searchlights well coordinated. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,600 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report M-238, 14 May 44.)

POHAE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,900 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target in. No AA. Distance flown: 826 to 1,080 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report M-226, 10 May 44.)

7-8 May 44

JALUIT-KOJOE - Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Malo dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on buildings north of RDF station area on Eneybor, from 8,900 to 9,600 feet. Six other B-25's of 48th Squadron bombed Kota jag with 12 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 9,000 feet, all hitting vicinity of heavy AA battery on northeast shore. No AA from either place. All 12 airplanes returned at Majuro. On return trip six B-25's hit Kota jag with 12 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 75 per cent in heavy AA battery on northeast shore; and six dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on remaining buildings north of RDF station on Eneybor, from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 63 per cent hits. No AA from either place. Distance flown: first strike, 420 to 660 statute miles; second strike, 470 to 660 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-227, M-228, 13 May 44.)

POHAE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,700 to 10,000 feet, with hits in building area on Langar Island, and on runways of old and new airfields on Ponape Island. AA moderate to moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 860 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-229, 11 May 44.)

8 May 44

POHAE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 9,800 feet, with hits near runway intersection of old airfield and on runways of new airfield. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 843 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-232, 12 May 44.)

8-9 May 44

JALUIT-KOJOE - Ten B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Malo dropped 19 x 1,000-lb. bombs in heavy AA battery area on northeast section of Badi jag from 10,000 feet, 21 per cent in target area. AA minor and caused no damage. All airplanes returned to Majuro and on return trip nine dropped 98 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Kota jag from 6,500 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. Distance flown: first strike, 441 to 461 statute miles; second strike, 665 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-230, M-231, 13 May 44.)
9 May 44

TRUK - Sixteen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged through Eilath for a night mission against Truk. Fourteen dropped a total of 24 x 2,000-lb., and 36 x 1,000-lb., GP bombs on Truk group, with 37.4 per cent hitting assigned targets—airfields on Eon, Eiton, and Faram. Other hits were scored on Dublon, Udor, Dala, and a destroyer anchored near Eon. One B-24 dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP's on Penapo from 10,000 feet, with hits in waterfront area; and one dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. GP's on Cerulean Island from 10,000 feet. AA at Truk heavy and inaccurate. No AA at Penapo or Cerulean. Three enemy aircraft observed over Truk, but there was no interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,606 to 2,452 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-242, 15 May 44.)

PONAPE - Ten B-24's of 28th and 431st Bomb Squadrons returning from Los Negros hit Penapo from 10,500 to 15,500 feet with 220 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 198 bombs hitting in target area. AA moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two B-24's were slightly damaged. Distance flown: 1,925 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-244, 13 May 44.)

9-10 May 44

WONJE-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 5,000-lb. bombs on Nukio from 8,000 feet, 75 per cent on or near target. No AA. All air planes returned to Majuro and on return trip dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. SAPs in heavy AA battery area on north coast of Eulid from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 34 per cent in target area. A raft 60 foot square was stranded with .50-cal. end 75-mm. equipment. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 625 statute miles; second strike, 625 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-233, 13 May 44.)

10 May 44

TAKAE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kusjaiein dropped 120 x 100-lb. bombs on Woke from 12,500 feet, results unobserved. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-247, 11 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Longar Island from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 22 in target. AA major and inaccurate. Distance flown: 1,000 to 1,451 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-235, 12 May 44.)

SHIPPING - Three B-25's based at Engebi searched for shipping reported at Penapo with negative results. No bombs were dropped at Penapo because of adverse weather conditions. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 10 May 44.)

10-11 May 44

JALUIT-WONJE - Seven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 84 x 100-lb. bombs on Eulid from 9,500 feet, 40 per cent
10-11 May 44

Buildings on special target and remainder on at airplaneno reas and piers. AA mayor, causing no damage. Seven other
L6h Bomb Squadron B-25’s hit Wotjo with 28 x 500-lb. GP’s from
8,000 feet, 85 per cent among buildings in north central section.
No AA. All airplanes returned at Majuro. On return trip seven
B-25’s dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP’s on buildings on south half of
Emidj from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with 75 per cent hits; and
seven dropped 75 x 100-lb. GP’s on Wotjo from 8,000 to 9,000
foot, 100 per cent in buildings in north central section. No
AA at Wotjo and only minor and inaccurate AA at Emidj.
Distance flown: first strike, 425 to 650 statute miles; second
strike, 425 to 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports
H-239, H-239, 15 May 44.)

11 May 44

TRUK - Twelve B-24’s of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 392d Bomb
Squadron staged through Emirak in night mission against Truk.
Eight dropped 28 x 1,000-lb. and 11 x 2,000-lb. GP bombs on
Emidj from 10,000 to 12,000 feet, and four dropped 18 x 1,000-
1b. and 3 x 2,000-lb. bombs on Etten from 11,000 to 12,500 feet.
Six dropped 12 x 2,000-lb. and 12 x 2,000-lb. GP’s on Faram from
10,000 to 13,000 feet. One dropped 3 x 2,000-lb. GP’s on Uman
from 11,000 feet. Three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP’s each on
Dublon, Udoto, and Ponape. All but six of the bombs fell on or
near their target areas. AA at Truk moderate to moderate,
inaccurate to accurate. Interception by three twin-engine and
six single-engine enemy aircraft. One unidentified enemy
fighter was destroyed. Two B-24’s were damaged. Distance
flown: 2,379 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-243,
16 May 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-25’s of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped
22 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,000 to 10,000 feet,
approximately 33 per cent in target area. AA moderate and accu-
rate to inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 615
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-239, 16 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25’s of 620th Bomb Squadron at Enoghi dropped
10 x 1,000-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from
10,500 feet, with results unobserved. AA moderate and inac-
curate. Distance flown: 1,900 to 1,925 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report H-239, 13 May 44.)

11-12 May 44

PONAPE - Six B-25’s of 620th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb.
GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 feet, and fired 30 rounds of 75-mm.
ammunition from 7,000 to 9,000 feet. Eight bombs fell on Ponape
Town, and 12 fell in plantation building area in Jokaj district.
Four were unobserved. Results of shells fired undetermined.
AA moderate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown:
852 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-240, 15 May 44.)
12 May 44

WAKE - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein in mission against Wake unable to locate target because of adverse weather conditions and returned to base abortive. Distance flown: 1,820 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-242, 16 May 44.)

12-13

MAURU - Twelve B-25's of 47th and 11 of 48th Bomb Squadrons at Nuklina dropped 180 x 100-1b and 12 x 1,000-1b GP bombs on Mauru from 8,000 to 10,400 feet. Targets were AA positions, power plant, and phosphate plant. Hits were scored on all, with undetermined results. AA moderate to intense and accurate, causing minor damage to three aircrew. One aircrew of each squadron was abortive. Distance flown: 965 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-21, 16 May 44.)

13 May 44

TRUK - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of the 98th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk with 15 x 2,000-1b, 6 x 1,000-1b GP bombs, and 20 x 451b, photo bombs from 7,500 to 15,000 feet. Of the 1,000 pounders, 18 fell on Hoon, six on Panam, six on Eten, six on Makagon, six on unidentified island, and six on island ridgeline near Northeast Pass. Nine of the 2,000-1b bombs fell on Hoon airstrip, six on Panam airstrip, two on Eten, and one on Dublon. Night photos were taken of Tal and Udot. Searchlights ineffective, AA meager and inaccurate. Three fighter attacks observed airborns, none of the B-24's was damaged. Three B-24's dropped six 1,000-1b, and six 2,000-1b GP bombs on Panam from 8,500 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent on target, no AA or searchlights. Distance flown: 1,652 to 2,600 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-246, 18 May 44.)

MALKOLAP - Six B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 72 x 500-1b demolition bombs on Tarac from 10,000 feet, 82 per cent in target. No AA. No activity was observed. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-255, 19 May 44.)

JALUIT - One B-24 of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 12 x 500-1b GP bombs on Jabar from 10,000 feet, with no hits observed. AA meager and inaccurate. (VII BG Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 May 44.)

13-14

PONape - Eight B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 32 x 500-1b GP bombs on Ponape from 8,000 to 10,500 feet. Twenty-five hit in plantation area, and on runways of old and new airfields. Seven went into the water. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report K-242, 16 May 44.)

14-15

Jaluit - Fifty-four B-24's, including 12 of 27th Bomb Squadron, 12 of 38th, 12 of 392d, 10 of 98th, nine of 431st and one of...
14-15 Headquarters 11th Air Corps, in a daylight mission against Jaluit from Kwaajalein. Fifty-three dropped 28 x 2,000-lb., 50 x 500-lb., and 40 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 1,500 to 10,000 feet, with 69 per cent hitting assigned target, and 35 additional 500-lb. bombs hitting areas outside of targets on Jaluit Island. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP on alternate target of Hille from 9,500 feet. AA and AN major and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 464 to 634 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-250, 19 May 44.)

JALUIT - Forty-three B-25's of 41st Bomber Group, including 14 from the 47th Bomb Squadron, 13 from the 48th, 12 from the 396th, and one from the 820th, dropped a total of 172 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,000 to 10,000 feet as follows: 25 on Ano, 20 on Jabor, 16 on South Point area, 48 on Enubius and Agidayan, 52 on Baidi, and 16 in the water. Installations were strafed with 26,790 rounds of .50-cal. and 217 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition from 25 to 400 feet. AA major and inaccurate causing no damage. Distance flown: 675 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-243, 19 May 44.)

JALUIT - In addition to the B-24's and B-25's mentioned above, the following army aircraft were over Jaluit: 24 F6F's, 95 FM's, and 60 SBP's. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 May 44.)

WAKE-MALCEKAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Kato and Malcekap from 10,000 feet. AA at Malcekap major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-1, 21 May 44.)

MILLE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Mille from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance to target and back to Kwajalein: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-2, 23 May 44.)

15 May 44 JALUIT - Two F-7's of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Jaluit from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-3, 24 May 44.)

16 May 44 WAKE - Twelve B-24's of 352d Bomb Squadron and 11 of 27th Bomb Squadron based on Kwaajalein in mission against Wake. Airplanes of 352d dropped 680 x 100-lb. GP bombs in vicinity of Peacock Point from 10,000 to 14,000 feet, 75 per cent in target area. The 27th Bomb Squadron dropped 120 x 500-lb. GP's on Wake Island from 10,500 to 12,500 feet, 90 per cent in target area. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-24's. Distance flown: 1,445 to 1,471 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-251, 21 May 44.)
HAUKE - Ten B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron and two of 820th
at Nauru dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Nauru from 8,400-
to 11,500 feet, 69 per cent hitting on power plant, AA posi-
tions, dispersal areas, and runways. AA moderate to intense
and accurate, damaging four B-25's slightly. No additional
B-24's were abortive. Distance flown: 950 statute miles.
(F/F VII BC Mission Report K-244, 22 May 44.)

KUNIE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Nitojo from 10,000 feet. One inaccurate burst of AA caused
no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/F VII BC
Mission Report P-4, 23 May 44.)

MILLO - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Millo from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. No AA or interception.
Distance flown: 650 statute miles. (F/F VII BC
Mission Report P-4, 23 May 44.)

16-17
May 44 JALUIT - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron made five
photo runs over Jaluit from 5,000 feet. No AA or intercep-
tion. Distance flown: 765 statute miles. (F/F VII BC
Mission Report P-4, 23 May 44.)

17 May 44 PCIAFZ - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped
24 x 500-lb. and 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs on both airfields and
dock areas of Palau from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in airfield
areas, with dock area hits unobserved. New airfield
looked operational. AA intense and inaccurate. Distance
flown: 925 statute miles. (F/F VII BC Mission Report K-240,
21 May 44.)

18 May 44 WAKE - Eighteen Kwajalein-based B-24's, including one from
Headquarters 11th Bomb Group, eight from 98th Bomb Squadron,
and nine from 431st, bombed Wake from 12,000 to 14,000 feet,
dropping 106 x 500-lb. and 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 66 per
cent of the 500's hitting Wake Island and 80 per cent of the
100's on Wake Island. AA intense and accurate, destroying one
B-24 and damaging two others. Torso B-24's jettisoned 120 x
100-lb. GP bombs because they were forced off the bomb run.
The 500-pounders were jettisoned accurately. Distance flown:
1,565 statute miles. (F/F VII BC Mission Report H-252,
21 May 44.)

PCIAFZ - Five B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi bombed
Jaraj Island and new airfield on Panam with 20 x 500-lb. GP
bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA.
Distance flown: 912 statute miles. (F/F VII BC Mission Re-
port H-246, 22 May 44.)

18-19
May 44 MALOEAP - Eleven B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin
bombed Toroa from 2,000 feet with 15 x 500-lb. GP bombs,
18-19 May 44
(contd)

66 per cent hit, minor damage on northeast tip. AA
mager, but accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25S. Air-
planes rounded at Muro and with a 12th added, returned to
Tarza in four flights to drop 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,200 to
9,700 feet on heavy AA battery on southeast shore, with 60 per
cent hits. One flight reported AA from guns mager and accu-
ratie, but other flights reported no AA. None of the airplanes
was damaged. Distance flown: first strike, 520 statute miles;
second strike, 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
H-2, 23 May 44.)

19 May 44

POHAK - Nine B-25’s of 486th Bomb Squadron at Engebi over
Ponap to three flights to drop 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from
8,000 to 10,000 feet on new airstrip, with an estimated 100
per cent hits. AA mager and accurate. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E
VIII BC Mission Report H-249, 22 May 44.)

MALCEAP - One F-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Malceap from 9,500 to 13,600 feet. AA mager and mager, causing no damage. Distance flown: 465 statute miles. (F/E
VIII BC Mission Report P-7, 23 May 44.)

MILLE - One F-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Milke from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance
flown: 546 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-8,
23 May 44.)

20 May 44

NAKU - Twelve B-25’s of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin over
Nauru in four flights dropped 44 x 100-lb. GP bombs from
9,300 to 10,500 feet, with 92 per cent hitting power plant
and phosphate plant. AA mager to intense and accurate,
casing minor damage to four B-25’s. Distance flown: 1,000
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-2, 23 May 44.)

MALCEAP - One F-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Malceap from Kumaika from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception.
Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
P-9, 23 May 44.)

JALUT - One F-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kumaika
photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. AA mager and inaccu-
rate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 560 statute miles. (F/E
VII BC Mission Report P-10, 23 May 44.)

JALUT - Another F-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron photo-
graphed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. AA mager and mager, causing no damage. Distance flown: 560 statute miles. (F/E
VII BC Mission Report P-11, 23 May 44.)

21 May 44

Tokue - Fifty-five B-25’s, including 12 of 37th Bomb Squadron,
11 of 392d, 10 of 38th, 11 of 431st, 9 of 39th, and two of
Headquarters 11th Bomb Group, in daylight attack against Wotje from Kavieng. They dropped 1,294 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 4 x 2,000-lb. GPs, and 167 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs from 4,000 to 10,400 feet. An estimated 59 per cent of all bombs dropped hit assigned target areas. Approximately 67 1/2 per cent of the SAPs hit in target area on southern part of Wotje Island. Fifty per cent of the 2,000-lb. GPs hit Yoton Island, and 65 per cent of the 100-lb. GPs hit on small islands of Wotje Atoll. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown; 324 to 402 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-25A, 20 May 44.)

WORNE - Forty-one B-25's of 41st Bomb Group, including 14 of 47th Bomb Squadron, 12 of 596th Bomb Squadron, and 15 of 320th Bomb Squadron, in daylight attack on Wotje from Maken. They dropped a total of 692 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 1,000 to 4,500 feet on Crowed and small inlets of Wotje Atoll, getting hits on all islands attacked although the damage resulting from bombing was undetermined. In addition they conducted a low-level strafing and cannoning attack expanding 156 rounds of 75-mm. and 45,727 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. It was estimated that 71-1/2 per cent of the 75-mm. shells hit islands. AA meager and inaccurate to accurate. Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown; 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-250, 30 May 44.)

ROTA - Nine B-24's of 23rd Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok to escort four Navy F4Y photo planes in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission against Rota. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Rota from 20,000 feet. Percentage of hits could not be estimated due to heavy cloud coverage. No AA or interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. All landed at Lioi Negros. Distance flown; 2,730 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-26A, 31 May 44.)

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Eniwetok. One abortive because of engine trouble. Three were preparing to make bomb run when a message was received ordering them to bomb with caution as a flight of B-24's from the Admiralties was scheduled to attack. While the B-25's were circling, the target became completely closed in. One B-25 dropped 12 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Ponape and strafed with 21 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 50 to 75 feet. Four dropped 16 x 300-lb. GP bombs on Jalma Island from 9,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown; 965 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-251, 26 May 44.)

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23-24 May 44

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin, over Jaluit in four flights, dropped 22 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 8,000 feet, 35 per cent hitting AA positions on north tip of Edjij and 20 per cent hitting Taliot. AA barrage, accurate to inaccurate. Three airplanes returned to Makin and nine landed at Majuro, reassembled and returned to Jaluit to drop 35 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 8,000 feet on heavy AA battery northeast of building area on Taliot, 40 per cent in target area. PE AA. Distance flown: 425 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report H-252, 29 May 44.)

24 May 44

PONAPE - Two B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, returning to Eniwetok from Negros, dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island with 59 hits observed, and 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs on industrial plant at Natakain, with no hits observed. AA barrage and caused no damage. Five other B-24's flew direct to Eniwetok without dropping any bombs. Distance flown: 1,506 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report H-249, 2 June 44.)

26-25 May 44

WONEN-JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 46 x 500-lb. bombs on Nitojo from 9,000 feet. Eleven hits were observed in the heavy AA battery area on the northeast tip of Nitojo, with 12 others observed in the heavy AA battery on ocean shore southwest of southern service apron. No AA. All airplanes landed at Majuro, 10 reassembled and on return trip dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,500 to 9,000 feet, with 65 per cent hitting targets. AA barrage and inaccurate. Distance flown: 345 to 525 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report H-254, 29 May 44.)

FONAFU - Eight B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape. One dropped 12 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters and strafed with 26 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 75 feet. Seven dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 2,000 to 3,000 feet. Flies were started in plantation and town areas. AA barrage and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 565 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report H-253, 29 May 44.)

25-26 May 44

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape. Seven dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 9,100 feet, 17 of which fell on building areas on Ponape and Langar Islands. Two dropped 8 x 100-lb. incendiaries and 8 x 100-lb. GP and strafed with 30 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 75 feet, with hits in plantation area, and on buildings at Raniki Harbor. AA barrage and inaccurate. AA barrage and accurate. One B-25, hit in engine, made crash landing in ocean. Four crew members were rescued and two were killed. Distance flown: 650 to 1,100 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report H-255, 1 June 44.)
Tallies - On 12 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kusel, we photographed a big fire 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 200 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report P-27, 31 May 44.)

PAK - Nine B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron assigned to cover and attack mission. Seven dropped 4,000-lb. HE bombs on Enga from 6,000 to 7,000 feet, 60 per cent in target area. Two of the 46th dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs on AA battery on NE tip of Enga from 1,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Fifteen of the 46th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 1,000-lb. GPs from 7,000 to 8,000 feet, 27 per cent on target. Six of 396th dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Enga from 9,000 to 9,800 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 200 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report N-257, 6 June 44.)

JELUT - Forty-five B-25's of 41st Bomber Group in daylight attack on Jelut from Kusel. Thirteen of 260th Bomb Squadron dropped 26 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Budi from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, 56 per cent in target area. Two of the 46th dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. GPs on AA battery on NE tip of Budi from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Fifteen of the 46th Bomb Squadron dropped 30 x 1,000-lb. GPs from 7,000 to 8,000 feet, 27 per cent on target. Six of 396th dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Budi from 9,000 to 9,800 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 200 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report N-257, 6 June 44.)

FOIZI - Twenty-five B-25's of the 41st and 30th Bomb Groups in daylight attack on Foizi from Kusel. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Five of 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 200 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Lengai Island from 15,000 to 16,000 feet, 96 per cent on target. One of 26th Squadron, which developed engine trouble, just before reaching target, dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on an unidentified part of Lengai Island.

Five B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron dropped 30 x 500-lb. GPs and 20 x 500-lb. Incendiary clusters on Foizi Town from 10,000 to 12,000 feet, and one the 46th dropped 20 x 100-lb. GPs on Lengai Island. All hit on target. Six of 396th Squadron dropped 72 x 500-lb. GPs on Foizi Town from 12,000 feet, 100 per cent on target; and five dropped 63 x 500-lb. GPs on old airfield from 11,000 to 12,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,350 to 1,418 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report E-253, 2 June 44.)

FOIZI - Fifty-four B-25's of 41st Bomber Group in daylight mission against Foizi from Kusel. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Twelve of 260th Bomb Squadron dropped 160 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Lengai Island and 16 x 100-lb. GPs on Ari Point, Foizi Island, from 7,500 to 10,500 feet, 67 per cent hits. Two of 46th dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on Foizi Town from 8,000 to 8,300 feet, 100 per
27-28 May 44
(contd)

crate hits. Ten of 48th Squadron dropped 120 x 100-lb. GPs en route from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, and three dropped 36 x 100-lb. GPs on larger island from 8,500 feet, 81 per cent hits. Thirteen of 396th Squadron dropped 52 x 500-lb. GPs from 9,500 to 10,000 feet on Pangat Island, 77 per cent hits. AA moderate to moderate and inaccurate. AA major to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two B-24s received minor damage. Distance flown: 911 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-258, 5 June 44.)

PCINFE - After the above two attacks had taken place, three P-74s of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kweilin assigned to photograph Pangat. Because of cloud coverage, only one made photo run. Three made runs from 10,000 feet. AA moderate and accurate; AV intense and accurate. None of the P-74s was damaged. Distance flown: 1,325 to 1,600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-13, 2 June 44.)

28-29 May 44
JAWIT - Twenty-nine B-24s of 47th and 396th Bomb Squadrons dropped 66 x 1,000-lb. and 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kuda; and Kunbor from 7,700 to 10,500 feet. Twenty of the 1,000-lb. and all of the 500-lb. bombs hit Kuda, but hit Kunbor and remainder fell in lagoon. AA and AV major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report N-259, 5 June 44.)

MALCHAP - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kweilin photographed Malechay from 10,000 feet. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 510 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-14, 31 May 44.)

29 May 44
SAIPMI - Fourteen B-24s of 358th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged through Eniwetok to escort eight Navy photo planes over Saipan. Four were abortive because of engine trouble. Seven dropped 21 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 18,500 to 20,000 feet, 15 on island. The jettisoned bombs after leaving target. AA major and inaccurate. Interception by 10 to 12 Zekes, Hamps, Tojos, and Oscares, of which two Zekes and one Hump were damaged. One B-24 was shot down. Remainder returned to Eniwetok. Distance flown: 3,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-258, 3 June 46.)

GUAM - Five B-24s of 358th Bomb Squadron and nine of 27th staged thru Eniwetok to escort Navy FB-4Y photo planes over Guam, dropping 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 18,000 feet. Thirteen of the B-24s reported interception by two to 10 Zekes and Hamps which dropped phosphorus bombs; the other B-24s reported interception by 15 to 20 enemy fighters and running battle lasting 25 minutes, with one Zeko destroyed. AA major to intense and accurate to inaccurate. Tail of one B-24 hit by fragment of bomb; two men other...
29 May 44
 Damage. On completion of mission, B-24's landed at Los Negros.
 Distance flown: 2,700 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-269, 6 June 44.)

WILLS - Thirteen B-24's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 42 x
500-lb. GP bombs on Wills from 7,500 to 8,500 feet with all
but two hitting gun positions and radar station area. Distance
flown: 900 statute miles. AA meager and inaccurate. (F/E VII
BC Mission Report P-15, 5 June 44.)

29-30 May 44
WONDE-WILLS - One B-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron made
10 photo runs over Wond to 10,000 feet and 11 over Wills
from 10,000 feet. AA from both places meager and inaccurate,
causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,075 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report P-15, 2 June 44.)

JALUIT - One B-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Jaluit from 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no
damage. Distance flown: 1,700 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report P-16, 1 June 44.)

30-31 May 44
POOHAI - Ten B-24's of 44th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-lb,
and 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Penang, hitting new airstrip,
Langur Island, Red Point, and gun em Vol Evaluate from 8,000
to 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate. No damage. Distance
flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-260,
6 June 44.)

POOHAI - Fourteen B-24's of 57th and 38th Bomb Squadrons, re-
turning from Los Negros to Trukaloin dropped 120 x 100-lb.
GP bombs on plantation area at Penang from 9,000 to 11,000
feet. One of the airplanes had engine trouble and dropped no
bombs, and another airplane, escorting it, dropped 10 x 100-lb.
GP's on an unidentified area en route. Of all the bombs
dropped, 82 per cent hit in assigned target area. AA meager
and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,650
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-261, 6 June 44.)

WAKE - Two P-77's of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at W pk
photographed ake from 20,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate,
causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,450 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report P-17, P-17A, 2 June 44.)

31 May 44
TRUK - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 240 x 100-lb
fragmentation clusters from 12,000 to 16,000 feet on Truk-
10% on old and new airfields en Vol, 65 on Puna, 16 on Pis
Island, and remainder unobserved. Flies visible for 150 miles
at 10,000 feet. AA from guns meager and inaccurate. Two to
11 searchlights accurate to inaccurate. One enemy airplane
airborne. One B-24 abortive. Distance flown: 2,445 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-27, 4 June 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION

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31 May 44
(contd)

FAMO - Eighteen B-24's of the 30th Bomb Group, including 11 of the 393rd Bomb Squadron, six of the 39th, and one of the 27th, in daylight missions against take from Kajaloe. Those of 38th dropped 12 x 2,000-lb. GP bombs on Hool Point from 12,500 to 13,500 feet, 62 per cent on the target. Those of the 393rd Squadron dropped 4 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Rossell Point from 14,500 to 16,000 feet, 82 per cent on the target. The B-24 of the 27th Squadron dropped 4 x 2,000-lb. GP's on Milkes Island, 75 per cent on target. AA moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. One B-24 received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,468 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report B-256, 5 June 44.)
1. June 44

JALUIT - C-47s of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 250 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report P-18, 8 June 44.)

2. June 44

PONAP - Nine B-25s of 488th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Eniwetok. Four dropped 8 x 500-lb. and 2 x 100-lb. GP bombs on old airfield from 9,500 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on or near runways. One airplane dropped 6 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 6 x 100-lb. incendiaries from 75 feet on Peleliu Island, 100 per cent hits, and strafed entire southern perimeter of Ponape Island with 30 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Two dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 9,000 feet, 83 per cent on target. Two dropped 2 x 100-lb. GPs on Naval Headquarters area at Ponape. One B-25 received minor damage from 20-mm. fire and debris from exploding torp. Distance flown: 910 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-262, 8 June 44.)

2. June 44

NAURU - Eleven B-25s of 888th Bomb Squadron over Nauru from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, dropping 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs, all on AA positions north and south of Bucai Lagoon. Runways reported operational. AA intense and ranged from inaccurate to accurate. 122 fire, no major and inaccurate. Two additional B-25s were abortive. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-263, 12 June 44.)

3. June 44

TRUK - Nine B-24s of 27th Bomb Squadron and nine of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Seventeen dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 318 x 150-lb. fragmentation clusters, and 2 x 50-lb. photo flash bombs. Approximately 85 per cent of all bombs dropped hit assigned targets on Meibo, Renni, Dablon, Perek, and Hasegon. AA minor and inaccurate. Four of the B-24s were attacked by one single-engine enemy fighter each. None of the B-24s was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-261, 11 June 44.)

4. June 44

NAURU - Fifteen B-25s of 356th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Nauru from Makin. Two were abortive. Thirteen dropped 116 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,600 feet. Eight airplanes got 100 per cent hits, three got 97 per cent hits, and two got no hits. Targets were AA positions and barracks area. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Three B-25s received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,090 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-264, 10 June 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION
4 June

200

CONFIDENTIAL

4:20

2141.S - Hilo B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and seven of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. One was abortive because of fire in tail turret. Fourteen dropped 75 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,500 to 16,000 feet, with 77% hits in target area on Ponape, Miana, Heceni, and Noon. Two dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. GP on Ponape from 11,000 to 13,500 feet, with 100% hits on larger island and old airfield. AA at Truk ranged to moderate, inaccurate to accurate. No AA at Ponape. One B-24 received slight damage. Distance flown: 1,760 to 2,400 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-262, 12 June 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 10,000 feet, with bombs falling on old airfield, Tamara district, and plantation area. No AA. Distance flown: 860 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-265, 7 June 44.)

5 June

5:24

201

GUAM - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron hit Mauer with 120 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. AA from guns moderate and accurate, but trailing, causing no damage. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-269, 9 June 44.)


JALUIT - One P-38 of 46th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwaialai photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. (46th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report K-20, 5 June 44.)

5-6 June

5:25

202

GUAM - Eight B-24's of 93rd and 431st Bomb Squadrons escorted one photo plane from the 46th Combat Mapping Squadron and four Navy photo planes over Guam. Two B-24's were abortive. Five dropped 15 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 13,500 to 20,000 feet, with hits on Orote airfield. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Five B-24's landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,725 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-263, 12 June 44.)

6 June

5:26

203

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,500 to 9,000 feet, 50% hits on AA positions on Johnston Island. AA ranged to moderate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report E-269, 9 June 44.)

PONAPE - Five B-24's returning from Los Negros dropped 2 1/2-tons of bombs on Ponape, hitting both airfields, Pohnpei town, and area north of Matanikau Harbor. AA ranged to moderate and inaccurate. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary)
7 June 44
PAKIN - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, returning
to Dakotah from Los Angeles, photographed Pakin from 20,000
feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-23,
7 June 44.)

8 June 44
NAUSS - Twelve B-25's from 320th Bomb Squadron hit Nauru
from 8,500 feet with 136 x 1250-lb. GP bombs, 50 per cent
hitting Tarawa town and 60 per cent hitting coastal defense
guns and AA positions. AA intense and accurate, causing
minimal damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 980 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report L-269, 12 June 44.)

PONAPES - Five B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 16 x
500-lb. and 6 x 100-lb. GP bombs on seaplane base at Langar
Island and Nukolalain Harbor (Penago) from 6,000 feet, with
75 per cent hits. AA heavy and inaccurate, causing no
damage. An additional B-25 was abortive because of gas leak.
Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Re-
port L-268, 11 June 44.)

TANUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, eight of 431st
Bomb Squadron and one of 433rd Bomb Squadron, staged through
Emirau in night mission against Truk. Two were abortive
because of weather conditions. Eleven dropped 210 x 100-lb.
GP bombs and 120 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on Truk
from 11,500 to 12,500 feet, with hits as follows: 150 0Ps
on airfield and seaplane base at Emau, 30 GPs on field, and
30 fragmentation on Poro and an unidentified island. Four air-
planes dropped 20 x 100-lb. GPs and 90 x 120-lb. fragmen-
tation clusters on Penago from 8,500 to 12,000 feet. Twenty
of the frags hit Penago town, and 30 fell on Langar Island.
Thirty GPs hit seaplane area southwest of old airfield.
AA at both Truk and Penago, heavy and inaccurate. One B-24
was attacked by one twin-engine fighter which made one pass.
None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-806, 14 June 44.)

9 June 44
TANUK - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through
Emirau in night mission against Truk. Six dropped 260 x
100-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 10,000 to 16,000 feet, with
120 hitting Emau and 120 falling on an unidentified island.
One B-24 dropped 10 x 100-lb. GPs on Penago from 13,000
feet, 38 of which hit Langar Island. There was no AA at
either place, and none of the B-24's was damaged. Distance
flown: 2,450 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-855,
13 June 44.)

10 June 44
TANUK - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron staged through
Emirau in night strike against Truk. One was abortive be-
cause of weather conditions. Seven dropped a total of 278 x
100-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 11,600 to 13,500 feet, with
10 June 44 99 per cent hitting airfield targets at Iwo, Eto, and Fusan. In addition to bombs, 2,100 Sondor No. 4 Propagation Leaflets and seven cartons of radar confuscers were dropped. Two B-24's dropped 90 x 100-lb. GP's on Fusan from 10,000 to 10,500 feet; 100 per cent on Jima Island gun positions and Fusan Town. All at Truk meager to moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Fusan. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,956 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-265, 16 June 44.)

HAJURI - Sixteen B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Nauru from Hailin. Thirteen dropped 156 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,600 feet, in four flights. Two flights got 100 per cent hits in gun batteries, and other two flights got 100 per cent hits on island. One B-25, damaged by AA at start of bomb run, was unable to release its bombs. Two others salvaged their bombs in order to accept the damaged aircraft. The damaged airplane was forced down in water about 40 miles from Nauru. All of the crew were rescued by Dutch AA, varying from meager to intense and inaccurate to accurate, caused moderate damage to four additional B-25's. Distance flown: 1,026 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-270, 18 June 44.)

11 June 44 TRUK - Nine B-26's of 38th Bomb Squadron, scheduled to attack on 10 Jun but postponed because of the weather, staged through Hailin for night mission against Truk. They dropped a total of 356 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 16,000 feet, with hits as follows: 120 on Fusan airfield, 26 on Eto, and 20 on Dohon. The remainder were unobserved or went into the water. AA meager to intense, accurate to inaccurate. Fifteen searchlights were observed, but they were uncoordinated. None of the B-26's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-265, 16 June 44.)

FOCHIE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP's on Iwo Island from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. They also dropped 2,000 Propagation Leaflets, Series No. 1. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-271, 14 June 44.)

12 June 44 TRUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Hailin for night mission against Truk. They dropped 47 x 1,000-lb. and 310 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 13,600 feet. Of the 1,000-lb. bombs, 20 hit Eto airfield, six hit Fusan airfield, six hit late Island, and two hit Fusan. Of the 100-pounders, 270 hit South Airfield, 90 hit Eto, and remainder fell into water. They also dropped 2,700 Sondor No. 5 Leaflets. AA meager to intense, accurate to inaccurate, Seventeen to 19 searchlights...
12 June 44 (contd)
were inaccurate to accurate. Two B-24's each were intercepted by an unidentified fighter. One B-24 received major damage, one crew member was killed, and three were wounded. Distance flown: 1,950 to 2,445 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-267, 17 June 44.)

13 June 44
TRUK - Thirty-six B-24's of 11th Bomb Group were staged thru Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Truk. Six of the 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 2,400 x 100-lb GP bombs on North Moon airfield, 80 per cent hits; seven of the 431st dropped 2,900 x 100-lb. GP on South Moon airfield, 90 per cent hits; six of the 26th dropped 2,000 x 100-lb and 900 x 100-lb on Fug Island. Five B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. AA moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by 7 to 12 Zekos, one Hap, one Tejo, and one Tony, all unsuccessful. One Zeko was destroyed, two Zekos and one Hap were probably destroyed, and two Zekos and two Tegos were damaged. One B-24 was damaged. Three Navy photo planes accompanied the mission. Two B-24's, failing to reach Truk because of engine trouble, dropped 80 x 100-lb GP bombs on Jokaj Island (Pomapo) from 11,000 to 15,000 feet. AA moderate and inaccurate. Distance flown: 2,470 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-268, 16 June 44.)

14 June 44
TRUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for a night attack on Truk. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Thirteen dropped 520 x 100-lb GP bombs on Truk from 9,000 to 18,000 feet, with 93 per cent of bombs dropped hitting airfields on Farm and Ecan. In addition, 6,000 Series No. 7 Propaganda leaflets were dropped. One B-24 dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP on Pomapo from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on Jokaj Island. AA at Truk moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Pomapo. One single-engine fighter intercepted over Truk. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,970 to 2,400 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-269, 18 June 44.)

NAURU - Fourteen B-25's of 43rd Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Nauru from Kolei dropped 150 x 100-lb GP bombs from 8,500 to 9,000 feet, with all but 12 hitting AA positions or runways. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 950 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-272, 17 June 44.)

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14 June 44

POHANG - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions at Jokja, 100 per cent hits. AA minor and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-273, 16 June 44.)

15 June 44

American forces landed on Jalap. (7 AF Intelligence Summary, 14, 15 July 44.)

16 June 44

POHANG - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on gun positions at Jokja from 8,500 to 9,000 feet and four 500-lb. GP on industrial area in vicinity of Hatalaan Harbor, with results unsatisfactory. Dropped 2,000 Series No. 3 Propaganda leaflets. AA minor and inaccurate, causing no damage. Both airfields appeared operational. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-274, 20 June 44.)

17 June 44


18 June 44

POHANG - Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and two of 38th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Penage from Kwajalein dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, with hits on Penage Tora, Jokja Island, Fort Point, Langar Island and Perek Island. AA minor and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,405 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-273, 20 June 44.)

NAURU - Blown B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron struck Nauru with 4 x 500-lb. bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet with bombs hitting AA positions near phosphate plant and a building at east base. One B-25 at 1,000 feet strafed area north of power plant with 20 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Large fires were visible for 50 miles at 2,000 feet. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate. One B-25 was abortive. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-274, 22 June 44.)

NAURU - Ton B-25's of 39th Bomb Squadron attacked Nauru with 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 9,500 feet, with all bombs scoring hits in target areas. AA intense, inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 971 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-275, 21 June 44.)
19 June 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d Bomb Squadron with one from 386th Bomb Squadron attacked Truk through Eniwetok for a daylight mission against Truk. One was observed because of mechanical failure. Fourteen dropped 163 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 4,200 Sb4 Series No. 8 propaganda leaflets on Eniwetok from 10,000 to 14,500 feet. Eighty-two bombs fell on North Eniwetok, setting large fires, and the remainder were unobserved. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Panap on 12,500 feet, 100 per cent on AA positions on Jekaj Island. One B-24 dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Hall Islands, two on land and four in the water. AA at Truk major and inaccurate. No AA at Panap or Hall Islands. Distance flown: 2,340 statute miles.

(F/B VII BC Mission Report B-270, 23 June 44.)

20 June 44

TRUK - Eighteen B-24's of the 11th Bomb Group staged thru Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Truk. Nine of 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 350 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters from 20,000 feet—123 on Etten airfield, 20 on southeast Dublon, and 210 in the water. Eight of the 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 320 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet—220 hitting Panap airfield and 100-falling in the water. An additional B-24 was abortive, jettisoning its bombs 45 minutes after the target. Several small fires were started in ravine area of Etten, and a large fire on Panap airfield was visible for 20 miles at 15,000 feet. There was no interception. Air force and accurate to inaccurate causing minor damage to two airplanes. AA barges appeared to be in use. Distance flown: 2,447 statute miles.

(F/B VII BC Mission Reports B-271, 23 June 44.)

PCMFE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Panap from 11,000 feet, with 100 per cent hits on Jekaj Island. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,311 statute miles.

(F/B VII BC Mission Report B-274, 22 June 44.)

PCMFE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 1,960 Series No. 4 propaganda leaflets from 10,000 to 10,700 feet on Jekaj, 85 per cent of the bombs hitting near gun positions. Fires were visible for 15 miles at 9,000 feet. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. New airfield appeared to be operational. Distance flown: 845 statute miles.

(F/B VII BC Mission Report B-277, 22 June 44.)

PCMFE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Panap dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 1,800 Series No. 3 propaganda leaflets from 10,600 to 11,000 feet. All of the bombs hit on or near AA positions on Jekaj Island. AA and AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles.

(F/B VII BC Mission Report B-278, 23 June 44.)
20 June 44 (contd.)

Advance part of Headquarters 318th Fighter Group and
19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons arrived at Saipan.
(Histories of 318th Fighter Group, 19th Fighter Squadron,
and 73d Fighter Squadron, Jun 44.)

21 June 44

TRUK - B-24's of 57th Bomb Squadron and seven of the
38th dropped 160 x 500-1b. GP bombs on Truk from 17,000 to
20,000 feet, with 127 falling on Lioen airfield. Aircraft
of the 27th experienced moderate to intense and accurate
AA and interception by five aggressive enemy fighters which
dropped 11 phosphorous bombs and made 10 passes. Those of
the 38th experienced only moderate and inaccurate AA and inter-
ception by one fighter which dropped seven phosphorous
bombs. Two fighters were damaged, and three B-24's were
damaged. One crewman was injured. Distance flown: 2,400
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-274, 23 June 44.)

TRUK - Troops B-24's of 392d and 431st Bomb Squadrons in
daylight mission over Truk dropped 114 x 500-1b. GP bombs
and 3,600 250-lb. GP bombs from 16,400
to 17,900 feet on small airfield and dispersed area, with
all but two hitting on or near target. AA and moderate
and inaccurate to accurate, slightly damaging one airplane.
Nine aggressive fighters, including six Zekos, two Tojos,
and one Hase, intercepted, dropping phosphorous bombs, which
caused minor damage to one airplane. The B-24's Because of
engine trouble dropped 10 x 500-1b. GP bombs on Panamo from
17,000 feet, all hitting in vicinity of AA positions on
Jekoj. No AA or interception. An additional B-24, jettisoned
its bombs 150 miles from Truk because of engine failures.
Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
Report H-275, 25 June 44.)

22 June 44

TRUK - Nineteen B-24's of the 11th Bomb Group staged thru
Enirotok for a raid on Truk. Six of the 98th Bomb Squadron
dropped 60 x 500-1b. GP bombs from 20,000 feet on Lioen, 37
of which hit airfield. An additional B-24, unable to re-
load its bombs electrically over Lioen, scattered 10 x 500-1b.
GP's and 3,600 250-lb. GP's over 250 miles from target area. The 98th Squadron
B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. Eight of
the 26th Bomb Squad dropped 80 x 500-1b. GP bombs on
North Lioen from 25,000 feet, 24 on target. Two B-24's of
the 26th were abortive because of mechanical trouble. AA
and moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. Four or five
aggressive Zekos and Hases intercepted, dropping seven
phosphorous bombs. One Zeko was destroyed and one was
damaged. One B-24, containing moderate damage. One B-24 of
the 98th Bomb Squadron, unable to reach Truk because of
cuggage shortage,dropped nine 500-1b. GP bombs on Panamo
from 13,000 feet, with all bombs hitting target area on
Jekoj Island. AA and moderate to accurate. Distance flown:
2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-276,
25 June 44.)

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22 June 44

THILAN - Eight P-37's of 19th Fighter Squadron strafed and rocketed enemy ground forces on Tinian, expending 14,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 14 rockets. Damaged at least three enemy positions. (Document 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 43 - July 44)

Twenty-two pilots of 19th Fighter Squadron landed at Saipan from an aircraft carrier. (History of 19th Fighter Squadron, June 44)

23 June 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok in daylight mission against Truk. Nine of the 27th dropped 90 x 500-lb GP bombs on north airstrip at Kossi from 19,000 to 21,000 feet, or 4,000 feet over the target and the remainder in the water.

Six of the 38th Squadron dropped 60 x 500-lb GP bombs on South Keo airstrip from 20,000 to 21,000 feet, 39 on target. All accurate to intense, but inaccurate. Aircraft of 27th intercepted by one unaggressive Japanese fighter, and those of 38th encountered four Zekes and one Tojo which dropped three phosphorous bombs. Three interceptors were damaged and two B-24's were slightly damaged. Two B-24's, because of mechanical difficulty, dropped 16 x 500-lb GP bombs on Jekaj Island. Distance flown: 2,200 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report H-277, 26 June 44)

POMPE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Pavngo from Enogibi dropped 105 x 100-lb GP bombs and 1,900 Special No. 6 Propaganda leaflets from 9,500 to 10,700 feet, with 104 falling on or near target area on Jekaj Island and two hitting Fugap Torn. All accurate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report H-280, 26 June 44)

INSECTICIDE - Four P-37's of 73d Fighter Squadron catapulted from carrier to intercept four Bals. Made no contact. Landed at Saipan. (Document 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 43 - July 44)

Eleven pilots of 19th Fighter Squadron and four of 73d Fighter Squadron landed at Saipan from aircraft carrier. (Histories of 19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons, June 44)

24 June 44

POMPE - Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and one of 38th in attack on Fugap. Two reached the target and dropped 20 x 500-lb GP bombs on Jekaj from 9,800 to 10,000 feet, all hitting island. All accurate and inaccurate, causing no damage. One B-24 failed to find target and returned to Eniwetok with bombs. Distance flown: 1,032 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report H-231, 26 June 44)
25 June 44

SAIPAN—FMN — P-47’s of 19th Fighter Squadron in four sorties over Saipan, expending 4,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition strafing trucks and buildings; and in 25 composite over Tinian, expending 31,220 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition strafing aircraft. Two F-47’s were slight damaged. (Ibid.)

26 June 44

TRUK — Nine B-24’s of 98th Bomb Squadron and seven of the 432nd staged from Eniwetok in daylight attack on Truk. Five airplanes of the 98th Squadron were abortive—three because of malfunctions, one because of loss of gas tank cap, and one because of inability to catch the target.
26th Squadron was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 49 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs and 3,900 SORDO No. 14 Propaganda Leaflets from 16,300 feet. Only three bombs were observed to hit land. AA heavy to moderate and inaccurate. Four to five aggressive Zekes intercepted, dropping phosphorous bombs. One Zeko was destroyed. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-278, 29 June 44.)

NAMBU - Sixteen B-25's of 38th Bomb Squadron dropped 192 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Heuro from 7,200 to 10,500 feet, with 95 per cent hitting in vicinity of AA positions. AA moderate to intense and accurate. One B-25 was shot down in water (crew rescued) and four received minor damage. Runways appeared operational. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-279, 1 July 44.)

POWAEB - Six B-25's of 306th Bomb Squadron were over Ponape in three flights, dropping 72 x 100-lb. demolition bombs from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, with 65 per cent falling on Jakaj Island and 35 per cent on new airfield at Ponape. They also dropped 1,980 SORDO No. 7 Propaganda Leaflets. AA heavy and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-281, 29 June 44.)

MARSHALLS - One P-7 of 80th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Ulithi, Hillo, Makin, and Tetao from 15,000 feet. (80th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-284EPB, 26 June 44.)

HALL-EAST PUYU - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Hall from 20,000 feet. Another P-7 photographed Hall and East Puyu from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-29A and P-2389, 26 June 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 26 sorties over Tinian, expending 17,285 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 25 rockets. One P-47 was damaged by a ricocheting .50-cal. bullet, another by AA, and a third by an exploding gun position. (Tec. 15, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - Two P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron in routine night patrols over Tinian. No contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 11 sorties over Tinian, expending 9,540 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 43 rockets; and four sorties over Saipan, expending 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 17 rockets. (Ibid.)
26 June 44
Ground echelon of 316th Fighter Group arrived at Saipan.
(History of 316th Fighter Group, June 44.)

27 June 44
POCARI - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron assigned a day-light mission against Peleliu, but all returned abortive because of a solid front 50 miles north of Peleliu. (P/E VII B C Mission Report M-262, 1 July 44.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian expended 4,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 36 rockets; in eight sorties over Saipan expended 5,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 42 rockets; and in 16 sorties over Rota expended 11,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 12, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 41 - July 44.)

ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 22 sorties over Rota expended 4,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 37 rockets. (Ibid.)

ROTA - One P-47 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron in routine combat air patrol over Rota expended 90 rounds of 20-mm ammunition, hitting one kite. (Ibid.)

TUK - B-24's of 23rd Bomb Squadron and eight of 394th staged thru Wake for daylight mission against Truk. One airplane of the 394th was abortive and returned bombs to staging base. The remaining 16 dropped 96 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 18,300 to 21,600 feet on South Atoll airfield, drome undetermined. Twelve bombs fell into the water. All two radar to incorrect, accurate to inaccurate. After bombs away, 10 to 12 phosphoric bombs were dropped by enemy fighters, then the bombers were attacked by two Zekos, a Horn, and a Tony. The Tony was destroyed. Two B-24's received minor damage. (P/E VII B C Mission Report R-279, 30 June 44.)

Ground echelons of 19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons arrived at Saipan. (History of 19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons, June 44.)

23 June 44
POCARI - One B-24 of 27th Bomb Squadron in night radar bombing mission over Peleliu dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions at Jelek Island and 9 x 100-lb. bombs on Nachel Island from 1,500 to 3,000 feet. No AA. (P/E VII B C Special Mission Report, 30 June 44.)

HAMPUTTO - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Kamosaito in the Carolinas from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-301, 30 June 44.)
29 June '44

NAKAN - Ten B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Nakah dropped 117 x 100-lb. Es bombs on Ait batteries at Hwase near 10,000 to 10,500 feet, cutting fires and explosions. In additional B-25 was observed, and one was shot down while on bomb run by defenders to intense AA. Another B-25 received minor damage. Photos were taken. Distance from: 950 statute miles. (P/I VII B) Mission Report 15-289, 3 July '44.)

MARESHAL - One P-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron, on mission from Ensitock, photographed Jaluit, Hilo, Kolekole, and Wotjo from 10,000 feet. (36th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-31A53, 29 June '44.)

SAIPAN-NAKAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Nakan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 17 I,700 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in support of ground troops; in 12 sorties over Nakan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 17,750 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 15 sorties over Nakan, dropping 30 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 8,660 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. In additional 12 sorties over Nakan was ineffective when one P-47 was lost on take-off. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. '41 - July '44.)

NOKA-SAIPAN - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Nakan, dropping 18 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 9,660 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in 12 sorties over Saipan in which no ammunition was expended. (Ibid.)

29-30 June '44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 96th Bomb Squadron, nine of the 26th, and one from Headquarters 11th Bomb Group staged thru Ensitock in high-altitude daylight bombing mission over Truk. One airplane damaged in take-off, tip of wing in-taken and hit.
29-30

June 64

(contd)

29-30
June 64

(contd)

take off from Eniwa, and four more abortive. The remaining 12 dropped 62 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 19,500 to 21,000 feet on North Mok airfield, AA batteries, and dispersed area. Four explosions were noted, and two columns of black smoke were visible for 10 miles at 19,000 feet. Mayor AA was inaccurate to accuracy. Formations were attacked by 6 to 7 single-engine fighters (Tojo, Okiara, Zekka, and Hap). Four phosphorescent bombs were dropped. Three E-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown 2,441 statute miles. (P/E VII BG Mission Report N-226, 3 July 64.)

30 June 64

POMAI - Six E-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Eniwa assigned to daylight bombing mission over Pusan returned abortive because of unfavorable weather conditions. Distance flown 335 statute miles. (P/E VII BG Mission Report N-226, 3 July 64.)

POMAI - One P-7 of 85th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwa, photographed Pusan from 16,666 feet. (85th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-32, 30 June 64.)

HASSANUS - One P-7 of 85th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwa, photographed Jollett, Hill, Kalekalep, and Tobo from 11,000 feet. (85th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-32/64, 30 June 64.)

THAU-PAU-EDTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over timer, dropping 21 x 500-lb. GP bombs and expanding 19,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in four sorties over Saipan, expanding 6200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Rota, dropping 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs and expanding 10,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 64 - July 65.)

THAU-PAU-EDTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Rota, dropping 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs and expanding 12,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over timer, dropping 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs and expanding 3,760 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sorties over Saipan, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 1,950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was damaged over Rota. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron, in night intercept 70 miles east of Saipan, destroyed unoccupied Japanese Fleet. Three P-61's on routine night patrols made no contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

All airplanes (E-24's) of the 494th Bomb Group (H) had arrived at Kure from the Mainland. Two ground echelons had arrived on 15 June 64. (History of 494th Bomb Group, June 64.)

CONCEISSION

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30 June 44. The flight, 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron arrived at
(uncld) Kweishin from Okinawa. (History of 26th Photo Recon Squadron,
June 44.)
1 July 44

TRUK - Blotted B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night bombing mission against Truk. Ten air-
planes, over the target individually from 9,000 to 13,500
feet, dropped 118 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions on
Truk, 90 per cent on target. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP
bombs on airstrip at Engegat; 60 per cent on target. AA
negligible and inaccurate. All major and inaccurate. An
unidentified number of fighters dropped three phosphorus
bombs and fixed turrets at formation. One B-24 was damaged
operationally, but none was damaged as a result of enemy
action. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report A-284, 1 July 44.)

TRUK - Ninth B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and Ninth of 38th
Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for daylight strike
against Truk. Three were abortive because of mechanical
trouble. Fifteen dropped 600 x 100-lb. GP bombs over 18,000
to 20,000 feet. Of these, 70 hit in area of AA positions on
Truk, and 170 fell in vicinity of Truk radio station.
AA negligible and inaccurate. Interception by three Zeks,
one Keku, and one Tafo. Seven passes were made, and eight
phosphorous bombs were dropped. One B-24 sustained minor
damage from enemy action, and one was damaged by its own
unit gunner. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E
VII BC Mission Report H-284, 1 July 44.)

SAIPAN-ENIWETOK - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16
sorties over Saipan, dropping 10 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding
10,883 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in 11 sorties over Rota,
expanding 21,230 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four
sorties over Tinian, dropping 63 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding
7,480 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of
VII Fighter Command, Doc. B1 - July 44.)

ENIWETOK - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 19 sorties
over Tinian, dropping 12 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 11,785
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 14 sorties over Rota,
dropping 46 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 10,230 rounds of
.50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron which went
up to intercept bogey over Saipan overshoot bogey. (Ibid.)

2 July 44

POCAG - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron over Jokaj Island
(Ponape) in three flights, dropping 72 x 100-lb. demolition
bombs from 10,000 to 11,400 feet, 33 per cent hitting in
heavy AA battery areas. They also dropped 1,980 Series No. 3
Propaganda Leaflets. AA negligible and inaccurate, causing no
damage. Both airfields on Ponape appeared operational.
Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Re-
port H-285, 2 July 44.)
2 July 44
(Sec. 18, History of VIII Fighter Command, Doc. 61 - July 44.)

SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16
corpses over Saipan, dropping four 500-lb. bombs and expanding
11,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight corpses over
Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expanding 11,500
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 corpses over Rota,
dropping 28 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 18,000 rounds of
.50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was lost on sighting over Rota.

SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12
sections over Rota, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding
4,720 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sections over
Saipan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 2,160
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight sections over
Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron which went
up to intercept bogey over Saipan overwatched enemy. (Ibid.)

3 July 44

TEHRAN - Eleven E-24's of 95th Bomb Squadron, including one
squadron, staged through Eniwetok for night attack on Truk.
One was obscured because of engine trouble. Nine dropped
43 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 16,000 feet. Of
these, 13 hit naval base at Rabaul, starting a large fire
visible for 60 miles at 14,000 feet, and 15 fell on other parts
of Rabaul Island, starting even fire in Japanese area.
One E-24 did not return from mission, smoke visible. A
and 47 enemy fighter aircraft and inaccurate. One enemy fighter
observed alighting. None of the returning E-24's was damaged.
Distance flown: 2,600 statute miles. (5/3 VII BC Mission
Report E-235, 6 July 44.)

AGUINAL-TINIAN-PAG-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron
in 12 sections over Aguinal, searching for pilot dock at sea;
in eight sections over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs;
in four sections over Pagan, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs; and
in four sections over Rota, expanding 4,000 rounds of .50-cal.
ammunition. One P-47 was damaged over Rota. (Sec. 18,
History of VIII Fighter Command, Doc. 61 - July 44.)

5 July 44

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 corpses over
Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs. (Ibid.)

ROTA-TINIAN-SAIPAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 10
sections over Rota, dropping 20 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding
5,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sections over
Tinian, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 5,500 rounds
of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sections over Saipan,
dropping 4 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 2,500 rounds of
.50-cal. ammunition in support of ground troops. (Ibid.)
26
July 45

SAIPAN-TRINHAN-AGUIJAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sections over Saipan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs; in eight sections over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs; and expanding 4,675 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sections over Rota, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs; and expanding 5,010 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sections over Aguijan. (Ibid.)

UDINE - Ciq P-5 of 25th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kunjal at 0700 over Toto 300 feet, getting oblimges. (B Flt, 25th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 1, 6 July 45.)

JALUJ - Ciq P-5 of 25th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kunjal at 0745 over Jali at 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 25th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 2, 9 July 45.)

5 July 45

TINIAN - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 318th Bomb Squadron, and one of Headquarters 11th Bomb Group staged through Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Truk. They had been based at Eniwetok 21 hours because of weather conditions. There were obstructions because of engine trouble. Nighttime
- 400 x 100-lb. and 76 x 500-lb. 27 bombs from 20,000 feet. Of the 100-pound bombs, 202 hit in vicinity of A-48, 10 on Musso and 40 in sector of Erak Island, and remaining two in water. Truset 500-lb. bombs hit Musso area, 26 x 500-lb. on Erak, and 43 went into the water. Aitara map and inadequate. Interception by four zeroes and one Hasso. Eleven planes were scared and five phosphorus bombs were dropped. Some of the B-24's were damaged. Distance over 2,417 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report B-296, 8 July 45.)

UDINE - Ciq P-5 of 25th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kunjal at 0500 over Toto 30 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 25th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 3, 5 July 45.)

ROTA-SAIPAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sections over Rota, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs; and in four sections over Saipan, dropping 2 x 120-lb. Japanese bombs and 3 x 500-lb. bombs; and expanding 4,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

ROTA-TRINHAN-SAIPAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 sections over Rota, dropping 26 x 500-lb. bombs; in 11 sections over Tinian, dropping 22 x 500-lb. bombs; and expanding 8,480 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sections over Saipan, expanding 2,135 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)
5 July 44
(Ccont)
SAIPAN - One P-61 of 68th Night Fighter Squadron went up to
intercept bogey over Saipan, made no contact. (Ibid.)

6 July 44
TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron staged through
through Eniwetok for night strike against Truk. One was
abortive because of engine trouble, and one because of
navigational error. Nine dropped 108 x 500-lb. GP bombs
from 9,100 to 17,000 feet. Eight fell on Ennukon, and 96
on Iwojima with results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate.
Six searchlights inaccurate and poorly coordinated. None
of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report R-287, 9 July 44.)

TRUK - Ten B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 392d Bomb
Squadron staged through Eniwetok in a daylight attack on Truk.
One did not take off from Eniwetok because of engine trouble,
and three were abortive because of mechanical trouble.
Fifteen dropped 152 x 500-lb. bombs from 16,600 to 19,100 feet.
50 per cent on or near Dulag Naval Base and 50 per cent in
the water. One airplane dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ennuk
from 17,000 feet, 50 per cent on land. AA meager to intense,
and accurate to inaccurate. Interception of 5 to 9 single-
engine fighters shortly before start of bomb run. They made
19 passes and dropped 16 phosphorous bombs. Four Zeke's and
one Rejo were destroyed. One B-24, with gasoline leakage
caused by shrapnel, made water landing one mile from Eniwetok.
Crow rescued. Three additional B-24's received minor damage.
Distance flown: 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
Report K-289, 10 July 44.)

NAURU - Fifty-five B-25's of 41st Bomb Group in daylight
mission against Nauru from Melville. Three of 47th Bomb Squadron
and one of 43rd Bomb Squadron were abortive because of mechanical
trouble. Forty-seven dropped 163 x 100-lb., and 36 x 500-
lb. GP bombs, and 96 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters from 4,100
to 9,000 feet. Only four of the 500-lb. GP's fell on the
target, 152 of the 100-pounders fell on land, and all but
three of the 500-lb. incendiaries fell on or near the target.
AA meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate, causing minor
damage to one B-25. Two B-25's were damaged by our bombs.
Airplane taking part in mission: 12 B-25's of 47th Bomb
Squadron, 15 of 48th, 12 of 396th, and 10 of 209th. Distance
flown: 982 statute miles. One B-25 of Headsquarters 41st Bomb Group
acted as observer, remaining over target for 30 minutes
after attack. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-286, 10 July 44.)

FONGHEE - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Eniwetok, photographed Penapp from 16,666 feet. (86th
Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-24, 6 July 44.)

MARSHALLS - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Malesch, and Wetje
from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report
P-35AEOD, 6 July 44.)

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6 July 44

MACAO - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kanajola made one photo run over Tarac from 50 feet, getting
oblique. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 5,
6 July 44.)

NOTA - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kanajola made one photo run over Notjo from 40 feet, getting
oblique. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 6,
6 July 44.)

TINIAN - NOTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties
over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expending 17,800
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 12 sorties over Rota,
dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter
Command, Dec 44 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 20 sorties over
Tinian, dropping 48 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 13,040 rounds
of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron up to intercept
bomber over Saipan, expended 60 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition
and 11 rounds of 20-mm., destroying one Japanese Betty. The
other P-61's up on interception lost their contacts. (Ibid.)

Ground echelon of 333d Fighter Squadron arrived at Saipan from
Casa. (History of 333d Fighter Squadron, July 44.)

7 July 44

GUAM - SAIPAN - NOTA - P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron on six
interception sorties over the Marianas (Guam, Saipan, and Rota),
expended 600 rounds of .50-cal. and 130 rounds of 20-mm.
ammunition, destroying one Japanese Betty and damaging another.
(Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 44 - July 44.)

HAIFU - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Eniwetok, photographed Haifu from 20,000 feet. (86th
Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-36, 7 July 44.)

MACAO - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kanajola made one photo run over Tarac from 50 feet, getting
oblique. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 6,
7 July 44.)

NOTA - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kanajola made one photo run over Notjo from an altitude of 40
feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 7,
7 July 44.)

Ground echelon of the 86th Combat Mapping Squadron arrived at
Saipan. (History of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, Sep. 44.)

Colonel Russell L. Waldron assumed command of the 11th Bomb
Group, replacing Colonel William J. Holmestedt. (CO 2, 11th
Bomb Group.)
8 July 44
TRUX - 1317 B-24's of the 96th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok in night strafing against Truk, dropping 44 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 21,500 feet, as follows: 22 on Diblon, five on Eoan, five on Hunaen, and 10 on Tof, with 70 per cent hitting land. All moderate but inaccurate. Two aircrafts picked up aircrafts very quickly. No interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,637 statute miles. (F/E VIII EC Mission Report K-59, 11 July 44.)

MIKIL - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at 10,000 feet on photo run over Mikil at 50 feet, getting obliquus. (F Y-18, 28th Photo Resn Squadron Mission Report 8, 8 July 44.)

PAGCA-BATAAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Pagan, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and in three sorties over Saipan, expending 720 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and nine rockets. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 43 - July 44.)

PAGCA-TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Tinian, dropping 32 x 500-lb. bombs; and in 12 over Pagan, expending 2,280 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition providing high cover for the dive-bombing attack of the 19th Fighter Squadron. (Ibid.)

9 July 44
(All organized Japanese resistance on Saipan ended. (7 AF Intelligence Summary No. 41, 15 July 44.)

TRUX - 817 B-24's of 43rd Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in daylight attack on Truk. Four were destroyed because of mechanical difficulties. Fifteen dropped 600 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 to 20,500 feet, 65 per cent falling on central and eastern part of Truk, and 35 per cent in the harbor. All moderate, inaccurate. Eighteen of four Zekios, one Tony, and one Tojo. Two B-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,722 statute miles. (F/E VIII EC Mission Report K-59, 12 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 39th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, expending 4,620 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 11 rockets. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 43 - July 44.)

SAIPAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Saipan, expending 7,795 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 23 rockets. Four of the aircrafts orbital while the United States Flag went up on Harpi Fields. (Ibid.)
JALUIT - Four B-25's of the 320th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 75 to 100 feet, and strafed the island with 1,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and four 75-mm. HE shells, with results unobserved. All airplanes roared at Hujaro and hit Jaluit again with 24 x 100-lb. GP's from 75 feet and strafed the island with 5,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and six 75-mm. HE shells. There was no AA on the first strike, and only meager and inaccurate fire on the second, causing no damage. Distance flown: 450 statute miles on each strike. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-287, 13 July 44.)

10 July 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged thru Enewetak in night strike against Truk, dropping 360 x 100-lb. GP bombs on both sides of Moon from 10,500 to 14,000 feet, with 70 per cent hitting target area, causing an explosion and starting three fires. AA meager and inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,340 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-291, 13 July 44.)

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Enewetak in daylight attack on Truk. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and one did not take off from Enewetak because of damage to left wing tip by water truck. Eighteen, over the target from 15,000 to 20,000 feet, dropped 148 x 500-lb. and 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs. Sixty-one of the 500-lb. bombs fell on Dublon Naval Base, 30 on Dublon Town, and 22 on hospital area. Nineteen of the 1,000-pounders hit the Dublon Naval Base. AA meager and inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-292, 16 July 44.)

TINIAN - F-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 26 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 12,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, destroying a gun position. (Doc. 12, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - F-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 10 sorties over Tinian, expending 5,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 20 rockets. (Ibid.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Enewetak, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Malelap, and Wetje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report F-374B, 10 July 44.)

11 July 44

TINIAN - F-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in seven sorties over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs, and expending 2,750 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 16 rockets. (Ibid.)

PAGAN-TINIAN - F-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties against Pagan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 7,695 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs. One F-47 was hit by AA over Tinian, but it returned safely. F-47's and F-6's were armed with .50-cal. Pagan was hit by heat and radio control fire.
11 July 44
*fighting planes had up to this time encountered in the
Hankow. (244)

12 July 44

**First night of 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron arrived at
Seipan from Okin. (History of 26th Photo Recon Squadron,
July 44.)

13 July 44

THUM - Tito B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok
for night attack en Truk. One airplane failed to reach the
target because of a gasoline leak. The remaining eight air-
planes flew individually to Truk and dropped 76 x 500-lb.
GP bombs from 11,500 to 17,000 feet, as follows: 30 on Dublon,
26 on Ment, 10 on Eto, and 10 on Hecagu. AA and AW crews
and ammunition. Seen to 14,含まれละด้วย, with heaviest
concentration from Dublon. Local planes attacked by two single-
engine fighters. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance
flown: 2,717 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report B-293,
15 July 44.)

THUM - P-47T's of 358th Fighter Squadron in eight sections
over Tainan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 3,860
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Dec 18, History of VII
Fighter Group, No. 41 - July 44.)

THUM - P-47T's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sections
over Tainan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs. (Ibid.)

THUM - Two P-38's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron, up to
intercept enemy over Seipan, was notified that it was heavy
fire after firing 730 rounds of .50-cal. and 235 rounds of
20-mm ammunition. (Ibid.)

13 July 44

THUM - Ten B-24's of 421st Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th
Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in daylight attack on
Truk. 10 dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Dublon from
23,000 feet, 22 per cent on land. Seven dropped 250 x 100-lb.
GP's on Ment, 75 per cent in vicinity of AA installations and
large rocks. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP on Dublon complexion
from 25,000 feet, 75 per cent on target. AA and AW crews,
and concentration to seaward. Interception by 12 to 15 Zeros,
two Tico and two Fungos. About 50 planes were noted, and 32 to
37 aerial bombs were dropped. Five Zeros were destroyed, one
probably destroyed, and four were damaged. Three B-24's
scarred return. Distance flown: 2,510 statute miles.
(P/E VII BC Mission Report B-293, 15 July 44.)

THUM - Nine B-24's of the 27th Bomb Squadron were also over
Truk in a daylight attack. Bombing from 14,000 to 19,800
feet; they dropped 351 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ment and Fungo.
with resultant largely unscored because of cloud cover. AA
magnet was unscored. Nine unidentified single-engine fighters
intercepted aggressively, of which one was damaged. None of
the B-24's was damaged. On the return

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13 July 44

(continued)

of one plane was lost overboard without his parachute at
13,000 feet while trying to jettison hang-up bombs. Distance
flown 2,600 statute miles. (F/J VII BC Mission Report 3-393,
16 July 44.)

FORTMORE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Fairbanks, photographed Pungo from 16,665 feet. (86th
Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report F-28, 13 July 44.)

TJININ - F-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over
Tinian, expending 3,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 36
rockets. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 44 -
July 44.)

TJININ - F-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in six sorties over
Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,140
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (This)

14 July 44

HAARU - Forty-one B-25's from the 41st Bomb Group (including
six from the 47th Bomb Squadron, 12 from the 48th, 10 from
the 296th, and 11 from the 320th) raided Haaru with 76 x
500-lb. incendiary clusters and 28 x 100-lb. GP bombs from
4,500 to 7,000 feet, with an estimated 80 per cent hitting
over head. All fighters to major, inaccurate to accurate.
All fire minor and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor
damage. An additional B-25 was abortive because of engine
trouble. Distance flown 1,035 statute miles. (F/J VII BC
Mission Report 5-293, 17 July 44.)

HAARU - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Fairbanks, photographed Haaru from 20,000 feet. (86th
Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report F-31, 14 July 44.)

FORTMORE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Fairbanks, photographed Pungo from 16,665 feet. (86th

FORTMORE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Fairbanks, photographed Etomo and Etomo from
10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report
5-101B, 14 July 44.)

SAIPAN-TJININ - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron
at Saipan made two runs on Toming Harbor, Saipan, and one run
over Tinian Harbor, all from 10,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo
Recon Squadron Mission Report 2, 14 July 44.)

TJININ - F-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over
Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and firing 9,950 rounds
of .50-cal. ammunition and 23 rockets. (Dec. 18, History of
VII Fighter Command, Dec 44 - July 44.)

UNIT FOR INSTRUCTION
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16 July 44
(Zhian) - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 5,770 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 22 rockets. (Ike)

(THIAN) - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salapan took low altitude oblique of beach areas on Tinian from 50 feet. Mission unsuccessful because of camera failure. (O Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 1, 14 July 44)

15 July 44
(THIAN) - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and nine of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Truk. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Sixteen dropped 160 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 17,500 to 20,000 feet, none of which hit the AA installations on Rawa which were the assigned targets. Twenty fell on northwest shore of Rawa, and the remainder fell into the water or were unobserved. A moderate to intense, accurate to inaccurate. Interception by 10 to 12 Zekkas, Harveys, Crusaders and Torays, and one probable Tony. Two Zekkas were damaged. Nine B-24's were damaged. Darianoclaims 2400 debits totaling. (P/B VII BC Mission Report K-236, 19 July 44)

THIAN - P-47's of 15th Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian, dropping 5 1/2 x 500-lb. and two 1,000-pound bombs, and dropping 13,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in an attempt to destroy housing area. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc 61 - July 44)

THIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian, dropping 47 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 9,550 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in an attempt to destroy housing areas. (Ike)

THIAN - Two P-47's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salapan took low oblique of beach areas on Tinian from 45 and 50 feet. (O Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 3 and 4, 15 July 44)

16 July 44
THIAN - P-47's of 49th Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian, dropping 30 x 500-lb. bombs and two 1,000-lb. bombs, expending 12,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in 16 sorties over Rapan, dropping 12 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 6,970 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ike)

THIAN - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 5,288 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ike)

THIAN - P-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salapan in four sorties over Tinian, getting the following type photographs: obliques and low verticals of the beach areas from 2,000 feet, and a vertical ofotal of inland from 10,000 feet. (O Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 6, 7, 8, and 9, 16 July 44)
17 July 44

FIMA RN - Twelve B-25's of 45th Bombardment, with 12 each from the 48th, 35th, and 828th Bomb Squadrons assigned to, daylight mission against Formosa from Engle and McKinley. One did not take off and one ran abortive, both due to engine trouble. Forty-seven dropped 50 x 100-lb. parafrag bombs and started with 323 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 50 to 1,500 feet. In addition, Carrier No. 9 Propaganda Leaflets were dropped. Bombs hit as follows: 270 ca Jinnaj Island, 32 ca or near airfield on Fomao Island, 42 ca Repa, 36 ca Tseow District, and 48 between Fomao and Lao. 469 accurate and 50 inexact, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Both airfields appeared inoperational. Distance flown: 793 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report K-229, 23 July 44.)

THIAD - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. and 2 x 1,000-lb. bombs and expended 9,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 418, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 41 - July 44.)

THIAD - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 11 sorties against Tinian dropped 21 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 12,420 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THIAD - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan made vertical records of Tinian from 10,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 10, 17 July 44.)

18 July 44

WAVE - Four B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and one of 27th Bomb Squadron in high-altitude daylight bombing mission of Naja from Elan Tul. They dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 to 17,000 feet, with 42 per cent hitting in target area. 42 per cent and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 361 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report K-300, 21 July 44.)

WAVE - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Elan Tul took 1st oblique of gun position on Naja from 100 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 9, 18 July 44.)

FOWFE - One P-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Elan Tul, photographed Fomao from 16,000 feet. (36th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-42, 18 July 44.)

THIAD - PACM - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Fomao, expending 16,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 22 x 500-lb. and two 100-lb. bombs and expending 17,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was damaged by AA fire over Fomao. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 5306.)
18 July 44

PAGAN-TINIAN - P-57's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Pagan, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,830 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Tinian, expending 8,716 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 25 rockets. (Ibid.)

PAGAN - Two P-51's of 20th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan in missions over Pagan made strip mosaics of Island from 12,000 feet, and took high altitude obliques of airfield and heavy AA emplacements from 9,000 feet. (S Fit, 20th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 12 and 13, 18 July 44.)

Flight personnel of 333d Fighter Squadron arrived at Ituol Field, Saipan. (History of 333d Fighter Squadron, July 44.)

19 July 44

TAUI - Ten P-24's of 435th Bomb Squadron, nine of 95th Bomb Squadron, and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for daylight strike against Fids. Three were abortive because of engine trouble. Fourteen dropped 140 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 17,000 to 19,000 feet on Dulce Naval Base, 25 per cent on target, 7 per cent near target, 40 per cent in water, and 28 per cent unlimbered. Three dropped 30 x 500-lb. GPs on floating drydock in harbor area from 18,400 to 20,000 feet, 7 per cent scored near target and 93 per cent went in water. Seven dropped 70 x 500-lb. GPs on defense unit and barrack on northeast tip of Dulce from 16,000 feet, 16 per cent on target, and 84 per cent in water. One dropped 10 x 500-lb. GPs on airstrip on east corner of Dulce Island. AA moderate, and inaccurate to inaccurate. Interception by six Zekes from 1 to 2,000 feet, and one Tojo. Approximately 25 pieces were hits, and 12 to 13 were dropped. Two Zekes and one Tojo were damaged. Seven P-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,527 statute miles. (P-2 VII BC Mission Report H-297, 22 July 44.)

MARSHALLS - One P-7 of 46th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Peleliu, photographed islands in the Marshalls from 10,000 feet. (46th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-43AP69, 19 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian, dropping 40 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 27,750 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (P-47, History of VII Fighter Corps, P-47 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian, dropping 23 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 5,590 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 75 rockets. (Ibid.)

MACRAMEP - One P-5 of 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Eniwetok made one run over Fids from 50 feet, getting obliques. (S Fit, 26th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 10, 19 July 44.)
19 July 44

KILLS - One P-51 of 35th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Krakalina took low oblique of kills from 100 feet. (G Flt., 35th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 11, 19 July 44.)

THREAT - Two P-51's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saben photographed two tanks on beach at Tenala and two high obliques of north coast of island from 1,500 feet. (G Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Reports 14 and 15, 19 July 44.)

20 July 44

GUAM - Third Marine Division, 77th Infantry Division, and 1st Provisional Marine Brigade land on Guam. (7 AF Intelligence Summary No. 45, 12 August 44.)

POMADE - Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron at Engiobi dropped 16 x 1,000-lb. fragmentation clusters on Duy Wall Island from 3,500 to 4,000 feet, with all bombs straddling gun positions. Struck with 3,760 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and dropped 1,000 rounds of .50-cal. incendiary and dropped 1,000 rounds of .50-cal. incendiary. Damage: 900 status miles. (POM VII FG Mission Report 2-296, 23 July 44.)

WORLD-MALACAP - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Krakalina photographed 107Obi and Malacap from 50 feet, getting obliques. (G Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 12, 20 July 44.)

JULIET - One P-5 of 28th Photo Recon Squadron at Krakalina made low oblique of Juliet from 50 feet. (G Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 12, 20 July 44.)

THATNI - One P-47 of 334th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Malan, dropping 32 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Res. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 43 - July 44.)

THATNI - One P-47 of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Malan, dropping 21 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 13,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Res.24)

THATNI - Four P-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in four sorties over Malan from Saben, photographing from 1,500 to 2,500 feet. No A1. (G Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Reports 17, 18, 19, and 20, 20 July 44.)

SAIPAN - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in vertical mapping mission over Taping Harbor and reef. (G Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 16, 20 July 44.)

21 July 44

THATNI - Thirty P-47's, including nine of 27th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 38th Bomb Squadron, and 11 of 332d Bomb Squadron, strung through Pakel for dayhit strike against Thai. No more
21 July 44 (cont'd)

aborted because of mechanical difficulties. Twenty-eight dropped 103 x 500-lb., GP bombs, 66 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, and 58 x 1,000-lb., SAP bombs, from 7,500 to 21,000 feet, and expended 100 rounds of .50-cal. and 2,790 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. Of the 500-lb. bombs, 24 fell on Kona, Kuyoa, and Keya, and the remainder went in the water or were unobserved. All but six of the 1,000-lb. GP fell on land on Ulea, Tali, and Dalchil. All but two of the 1,000-lb. SAPs fell on land on Kona, Dalchil, Kuyoa, and Faron, with hits unobserved. All minor to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. No interception. None of the P-24s was damaged. Distance flown: 2,000 statute miles. (7/VII ES Mission Report H-283, 26 July 44.)

TIHIANU - P-47s of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 10,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Rec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TIHIANU - P-47s of 734 Fighter Squadron in 35 sorties over Tinian dropped 70 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 23,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TIHIANU - P-47s of 333d Fighter Squadron in 26 sorties over Tinian dropped 57 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 8,635 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

22 July 44

FOIAPE - Tinian P-25's of 220th Bomb Squadron dropped 144 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on heavy AA batteries on Jokai Island from 6,100 feet, with 63 per cent crippling hits. After the bombs hit they strafed with 39 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, bombarding electricity on Jokai Harbor and Distrikt, Jokai, Fonom Tana, Pohn, and Jokaih. Dropped Section 11 Propaganda Leaflets. AA minor and inaccurate. All moderate and accurate,没能 observe drop to one P-25. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (7/VII ES Mission Report H-291, 26 July 44.)

TRU - Two P-7's of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Palatok, photographed Truk from 20,000 feet. (36th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-444 and P-455, 22 July 44.)

TIHIANU-PAGU - P-47s of 19th Fighter Squadron in six sorties over Tinian dropped four 165-gal. wing tanks and six 75-gal. belly tanks filled with gasoline mixture; and in 11 sorties
22 July 44

Over Pago dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

THIALL - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 17 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs, four 1,000-gal. wing tanks, and seven 100-gal. belly tanks, and expended 1,740 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THIALL - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 27 sorties over Tinian dropped 68 x 500-lb. bombs and four 1,000-gal. wing tanks, and expended 19,125 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight sorties over Pago expended 5,360 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THIALL - P-51's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in four sorties over Tinian, making vertical scans of island at 10,900 feet, and photographing damage done by P-47 fire bombs at 50 feet and 1,600 feet. No A.A. (6 Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Reports 23, 24, 25, and 26, 22 July 44.)

23 July 44

HAUKU - Tinian P-25's of 17th Bomb Squadron and 12 of 396th Bomb Squadron assigned to daylight bombing strikes against bases from Tinian. Four aircrews were abortive because of mechanical difficulties. Two remaining 20 dropped 79 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 4,500 to 7,000 feet, with majority falling in Ogre Farm area. A few to moderate, accurate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to two airplanes and major damage to one. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (P/3 VII BOC Mission Report 22-24, 29 July 44.)


THIALL - Fourth Marine Division, and one battalion, 2d Marine Division land on Tinian. (7 AF Intelligence Summary No. 43, 3 Apr '44, 66.)

THIALL - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 58 sorties over Tinian dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs, and 42 fire bombs, and expended 30,880 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

THIALL - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 30 sorties over Tinian dropped 23 x 500-lb. bombs and 22 fire bombs, and expended 15,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THIALL - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 38 sorties over Tinian dropped 31 x 500-lb. bombs and 20 fire bombs and expended 24,375 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 17 rockets. (Ibid.)
23 July 44
(contd)

THAI - P-51s of 38th Fighter Squadron in three
corps over Tinian from Saipan, getting low oblique and
verticals of bomb damage on buildings. Fe As. (C.Flts, 38th
Fighter Bn. Reports 27, 28, 29, 23 July 44.)

Ground echelon of 45th Bomb Squadron and 12 crews and air-
planes arrived at Saipan from Makin. Six crews and airplanes
arrived on 27 July. (History of 45th Bomb Squadron, July 44.)

24 July 44

THAI - Twenty-one B-24s, including eight of 25th Bomb
Squadron, nine of 98th Bomb Squadron, and 10 of 431st Bomb
Squadron, staged through Eniwetok for daylight strike against
Truk. They dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 50 x 1,000-lb.
SAP bombs, and 60 x 500-lb. GP's from 19,000 to 20,000 feet.
Of the 1,000-lb. GP's, 39 fell in Dauken Ton area and five
went in the water. Of the 1,000-lb. SAP's, 22 hit Enorn Island
and 26 went in the water. Of the 500-pounders, 6 hit north
airfield on Honi, and 49 went in the water or were unobserved.
All were accurate to inaccurate. Interception by 6 to 6
Zeke's, one Tojo, and one Hepp. They made 17 to 20 passes and
dropped 12 to 15 cordite bombs. B-24's expended 21,350 rounds
of .50-cal. and 1,855 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition, damaging
three Zokes and one Tojo. Three B-24's sustained minor
damage. Distance flown: 2,632 statute miles. (P/B VII 25
Mission Report E-299, 30 July 44.)

THAI - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron assigned to daylight,
medium altitude radar bombing mission over Rash. One B-24 of
Forward Group 38th Bomb Group accompanied the mission for
observation purposes only. One airplane was abortive. Eight
dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP's from 11,500 to 12,000 feet in
these bomb runs during each of which each airplane dropped
four bombs. All airplanes dropped bombs on land airplanes which
were radar controlled. Fifty per cent of the bombs hit the
targets. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 400 statute

THAI - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in four
corps over Tinian, dropped 16 fire bombs and expended 17,685 rounds
of .50-cal. ammunition. Two of the corps were for the purpose
of beach marking for screen troops. (Dec. 10, History of
VII Fighter Command, Dec 44 - July 45.)

THAI - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in six
corps over Tinian, dropping 21 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 12,270
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight corps over Rota,
expanding 5,385 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was
hit by AA over Tinian, and four assigned to mission over Rota
were abortive. (Ibid.)

THAI - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in six
corps over Tinian, dropping 21 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 19,260
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 corps over Rota.
26 July 44

The 318th Fighter Group moved from Iwo Jima to Okinawa Field on Saipan. (History of 318th Fighter Group, July 44.)

AGULIAN - One F-5 of 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Agulian from Saipan, making vertical runs on 3,000 to 5,000 foot level. 686 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, 1 round 1,000 feet. (6th BG, 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, Interrogation Report 30, 26 July 44.)

26-25 July 44

POWERS - Eleven B-25s of 320th Bomb Squadron at Enogai dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jinda from 3,000 to 4,000 feet, with 65 per cent in target area. Also strafed with eight rounds of 75-mm., and 6,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and dropped Streets No. 12 Frenganda Inafete. 4 losses in action. AA barrage accurate to inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Old airfield appeared operational now. Distances flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report 15-392, 25 July 44.)

25 July 44

THULAM - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 31 sorties over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and eight fire bombs, and expended 18,850 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VIII Fighter Command, Doc 41 - July 44.)

THULAM-PAGAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 31 sorties over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 12,515 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in eight sorties over Pagan, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 6,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THULAM-PAGAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 40 sorties over Tinian, dropping 18 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 65,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in 12 sorties over Pagan, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 6,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

PAGAN - P-51's of 337th Fighter Group in two sorties over Pagan from Saipan, getting vertical coverage of airfields from 6,000 to 16,000 feet. Seven sorties, two inaccurate bursts of AA were observed. (6th BG, 337th Fighter Group, Interrogation Report, 25 July 44.)


The 318th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group (H) arrived at Saipan from Calau. (Unit History, 318th Bomb Group, 1944.)

CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION
25-26 July 44

THI - 200 B-24s of 38th Bomb Squadron and one of 35th Bomb Squadron in eight separate missions over Truk dropped 22 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 and 16,000 feet. (T/E VII BC Mission Report No. 31, 25 July 44)

THI - Twenty-eight B-24s of the 50th Bomb Group, including eight of the 27th Bomb Squadron, nine of the 36th Bomb Squadron, and 11 of the 392d Bomb Squadron, assigned to a daylight, high altitude bombing strike against Truk. They staged thru Eniwetok to drop a total of 272 x 500-lb. bombs from 18,500 to 20,150 feet, with bombs falling on Truk Naval Base and buildings in northwest Truk. One airplane did not take off from Eniwetok, and three were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Moderate to intense AA, accurate to inaccurate, caused minor damage to one airplane. Interception by six to eight aggressive Zekos, Kamas, and Tojas caused minor damage to another airplane and wounded the nose gunner. Eight to 12 naval bombs were dropped.

Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (Ibid.)

26 July 44

Truk - B-25s of 830th Bomber Squadron at Eniwetok dropped 16 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on all positions on Rong Island from 4,000 feet, with 75 per cent hitting target areas. One building was destroyed. They also dropped 215 to 504, 44-36s, 13 AAs of 500-lb. AA and 20 in 400-lb. AA, all accurate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (T/E VII BC Mission Report No. 33, 29 July 44)

THI - Two B-25s of 48th Bomb Squadron at Iwo Jima, based in air by Air Support Office at Oriski Point for drop support of ground troops on Truk. Four of them dropped eight 1,000-lb. bombs from 500 to 800 feet on gun positions 1,000 yards south of new airstrip and expended 4,415 rounds of 50-cal. ammunition and 12 x 75-mm. shells in strafing buildings and radio station. One B-25 encountered moderate and inaccurate small arms fire which did no damage.

Distance flown, based on time in air: 200 statute miles. (T/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 1, 7 Aug. 44)

THI - Six B-25s of 48th Bomb Squadron at Iwo Jima, Saipan, based in air by Air Support Office for drop support of ground troops on Tinian. They dropped six 1,000-lb., eight 500-lb., and 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 1,000 feet on gun positions east of Harpa Point, with all bombs hitting target areas. They expended 9,200 rounds of 50-cal. ammunition and 43 x 75-mm. shells in strafing. The airplanes encountered moderate and inaccurate AA and SA fire from Tinian Town, which did no damage, and the other airplanes encountered no AA. Distance flown, based on time in air: 350 statute miles. (T/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 2, 8 Aug.)
26 July 44
(contd)

TINIAN — The B-25's of 488th Bomb Squadron from Iwo Jima Field, Saipan, with Marine officers as observers, were airborne for approximately two hours each over Tinian at average altitudes of 800 to 1,000 feet. (P/E VIII BC Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-1, 8 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN — P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 40 sorties over Tinian dropped 35 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 26,610 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Eqs. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dco 41 — July 44.)

TINIAN — P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 43 sorties over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 39,160 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN — P-47's of 332d Fighter Squadron in 30 sorties over Tinian dropped 66 x 500-lb. bombs and four fire bombs and expended 39,855 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN — One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Tinian from Saipan, making low oblique of suspected gun position from 50 to 1,000 feet. No AA. (2 Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squad Interrogation Report 35, 26 July 44.)

AGUJIN — One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Agujun from Saipan, making record of island from 8,000 feet. No AA. (2 Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squad Interrogation Report 33, 26 July 44.)

27 July 44

HOME — One B-26, of 37th Bomb Squadron at Krajaloin in practice for a bombing strike against Wotje dropped 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 15,000 feet in six bomb runs. Six fell on Wotje and six fell near a banked ship. No AA or interception. (P/E VIII BC Special Radar Mission, 30 July 44.)

TINIAN — Two B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan in four-hour observation mission over Tinian, with Marine officer observers, at an average altitude of 300 feet. One airplane in addition strafed gun positions on cliffs east of Harpo Point, expended 11 x 75-mm shells and 500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with unsatisfactory results. (P/E VIII BC Special Tinian Mission Observation 0-2, 8 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN — Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan, briefed in air by Air Support Director, dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on north sector of Tinian Town and four 500-lb. GP on machine gun positions in west sector of Tinian Town. They expended 8,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 60 x 75-mm shells in strafing. Intense and accurate AA fire forced three small craft in harbor of the harbor of one airplane. One B-25 extensively damaged when it slid off runway after landing. Distance flown, based on time in air: 300 miles. (P/E VIII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 3, 9 Aug. 44.)

CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTI SECURITY INFORMATION
27 July 44

TINIAN - P-47's of 38th Fighter Squadron in 47 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs, six fire bombs, and expended 51,333 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Boe. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 58 sorties over Tinian dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs and two fire bombs and expended 99,359 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Tbid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 21 sorties over Tinian dropped 25 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 11,568 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Tbid.)

TINIAN - P-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in 10 sorties over Tinian from Saipan, making oblique and vertical aerials of area in front of allied front lines from 90 to 1,000 feet. 16 AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon squadron Interrogation Reports 36 and 37, 27 July 44.)

PAGOA - Car P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Pagoa from Saipan, photographing airdrome and surrounding areas. 24 x 500-lb. bombs and 12 x 1,000-lb. bombs. 150 AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon squadron Interrogation Report 38, 27 July 44.)

FONAFEE - Two P-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Fonafee on airfield in mission against Fongafale, making oblique at 90 and 150 feet. 130 AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon squadron Interrogation Reports 14 and 15, 27 July 44.)

MURGUM - Car P-7 of 68th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographs Jolija, Mille, Maloelap, and Natoja from 10,000 feet. (68th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-47AED, 27 July 44.)

Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron arrived at Saipan from Niihau. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron, July 44.)

27-28

JALAN - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Jaluit dropped 32 x 100-lb. CF bombs on Jaluit, Lady Point from 50 to 200 feet, and expended eight 75-mm. shells and 4,550 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing and strafing. Nine other minor damage to one airplane. All airplanes landed safely. (Tbid.)

Seven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Jaluit dropped 26 x 100-lb. CF bombs on Jaluit Island from 50 to 200 feet, and expended eight 75-mm. shells and 4,550 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing and strafing. Nine minor damage to one airplane. All airplanes landed safely. (Tbid.)
TINIAN - The B-25's of 68th Bomb Squadron at Saipan assigned observation mission over Tinian, with Marine officers as observers. One returned abortive, and the others ran in the air over Tinian for approximately three hours and 15 minutes at an average altitude of 100 feet. (F/E VII BG, Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-3, 9 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of the 431st Bomb Squadron assigned to daylight high altitude bombing strike against Truk from Eniwetok. One airplane did not take off and three were abortive. The remaining 25 B-24's dropped 246 x 500-lb. GP's on Furun Island with 127 hitting target area. MA major and accurate to inaccurate. Interception by eight Zekes, one Tojo, and one possible Hepp. Approximately 26 to 28 percent were hits. Moving to 13 phosphorous bombs were dropped, many being dropped within 150 to 200 feet of our airplanes, causing increasing accuracy. Enemy pilots organized and aggressive. Our airplanes expended 20,255 rounds of .50-cal. and 1,920 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. Five Zekes were destroyed; one Zeko and one Tojo were damaged. One B-24 was shot down by enemy fighters and three received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,435 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-302, 2 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Two B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan, assigned to observation mission over Tinian with Marine officers as observers. One airplane ran over island approximately four hours and 45 minutes and the other approximately two hours. (F/E VII BG, Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-3, 9 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Two additional B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron on observation mission over Tinian, with Marine officers aboard, made 100 per cent coverage of enemy territory on island, and in addition one airplane covered Aguijan. One airplane fired 21 x 75-mm. shells and 1,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at enemy installations. (F/E VII BG Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-3, 9 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Two additional B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan briefed in air by Air Support Director dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on north section of Tinian from 300 to 1,000 feet, 100 m.p.h. wind in target, and expended 10,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 63 x 75-mm. shells in strafing the area. MA major and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air: 220 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report Tinian No. 3, 10 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 60 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and four 500-lb. bombs, and expended 10,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 crashed in low altitude attack. (Des. 18, History of VII Command, Dec 44 - July 44.)
28 July 44

28 July 44

The 333d Fighter Squadron moved from Isely Field to East Field on Saipan. (History of 333d Fighter Squadron, July 44.)
30 July 44

TINIAN - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan briefed in air by Air Support Director for drop support of ground troops. On Tinian dropped 19 x 1,000-lb. bombs on cave-filled cliffs in southwest part of Tinian from 4,000 to 4,300 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Returned a second run using 16 x 75-mm shells and 3,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Longer and inaccurate 81 fire caused no damage. Distance flown: 2,600 statute miles. (F/E VII SG Mission Report No.39, 5 Aug. 44)

TINIAN - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan assigned target areas on Tinian containing enemy troop concentrations and artillery positions dropped 29 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 4,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Longer and inaccurate 81 fire did no damage. Distance flown: 200 statute miles. (Ibid., No. 6, 10 Aug. 44)

TINIAN - Two B-25 of 48th Bomb Squadrons at Saipan over Tinian air base and 15 minutes in observation mission dropped leaflets and expended 1,500 rounds of 75-mm shells and 1,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition with unsatisfactory results. (F/E VII SG Special Mission Tinian Observation C-6, 9 Aug. 44)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian expended 12,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 16, History of VII Fighter Command, 41 - July 44)

TINIAN - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 35 sorties over Tinian expended 85,770 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 332d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian expended 17,870 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Airplanes on 12 other sorties could not attack because of naval artillery fire. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - Two P-5 of 23d Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Eniwetok are three photo runs over Hilo at 30 feet, getting obliques. (BKT, 23d Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 16, 30 July 44)

30-31 July 44

JALUIT - Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Ulithi dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. bombs on Jaluit from 5,000 feet and expended 947 rounds of 75-mm shells and 5,350 rounds of .50-cal. (Ibid.)
20-30 July 44 with results unobserved. Aircraft returned at Hagen and on return trip hit Aginer Island, Jaluit, with 12 x 1,000-lb bombs from 7,000 to 10,000 feet, and dropped 15 x 75-mm shells and 1,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; results undetermined. Distance flown, dash striking 250 statute miles. (P/B VII 80 Mission Report K-293, 7 Aug. 44.)

31 July 44 NAKHU - Twelve B-25's of the 388th Bomb Squadron and nine of the 478th BG Libin dropped 252 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Hara from 6,000 to 10,000 feet, with all but 36 falling on target area, with damage undetermined. Moderate AA, accurate to inaccurate, caused minor damage to three airplanes. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (P/B VII 80 Mission Report K-293, 7 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Sixteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan assigned gun positions and troop concentrations along cliffs on southern tip Tinian Island and between ridge and Kure Point, Tinian, dropped 32 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 3,500 to 4,000 feet, with 31 hitting target area. No AA or interception, and no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air: 160 miles; based on distance to target, 10 miles. (P/B VII 80 Mission Tinian No. 7, 10 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 18th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties against Tinian dropped 32 x 500-lb. bombs. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties against Tinian dropped 45 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 2,035 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (This.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 332d Fighter Squadron in 33 sorties against Tinian dropped 56 x 500-lb. bombs and six fire bombs, and expended 7,655 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (This.)
## Glossary

### Abbreviations

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<tr>
<td>AEFCA</td>
<td>Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASLCC</td>
<td>Air Service Support Squadron</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPAC</td>
<td>Central Pacific Combat Air Transport Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINCFCF</td>
<td>Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet</td>
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<td>CINCPOA</td>
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<td>CINCPOAC</td>
<td>Commander Aircraft, Central Pacific Force</td>
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<td>CFCM</td>
<td>Commandant, Central Pacific Area</td>
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<td>Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas</td>
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<td>JICPOAC</td>
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<td>JRCOAC</td>
<td>Photographic Reconnaissance and Interpretation Section, Intelligence Center, POA</td>
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<td>TAC</td>
<td>Seventh Air Force</td>
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<td>TAC 70</td>
<td>TAC Fighter Command</td>
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<td>TAC 73</td>
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<tr>
<td>USASTAF</td>
<td>U.S. Army Forces in Central Pacific Area</td>
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### Operation Area Terms

- **CINCPAC**: Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas
- **CINCPOAC**: Commander Aircraft, Central Pacific Force
- **JICPOAC**: Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas
- **JRCOAC**: Photographic Reconnaissance and Interpretation Section, Intelligence Center, POA

### Identification of Japanese Aircraft

- **D19**: Twin-engine medium bomber
- **D3A**: N-103, those used by Japanese
- **E1Y**: Single-engine fighter
- **Z1C**: Single-engine fighter
- **O1K**: Twin-engine medium bomber
- **O1N**: Single-engine fighter
- **P1Y**: Single-engine fleet bomber (torpedoes)
- **Geyn**: Single-engine fighter
- **Zeke**: Single-engine fighter

**RESTRICTED**

**SECURITY INFORMATION**
### Miscellaneous

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Antiaircraft fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADJST</td>
<td>Airfield Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>AG/72</td>
<td>Adjutant General's File, Seventh Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GL</td>
<td>Ground-to-ground fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rando</td>
<td>Radar on radar screen indicating presence of aircraft; or unidentified aircraft so indicated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cl</td>
<td>Classified message</td>
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<tr>
<td>0/S</td>
<td>Chief of Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elicor</td>
<td>An aircraft equipped for emergency air rescue</td>
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<td>FF</td>
<td>Forward observer</td>
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<td>FFP bomb</td>
<td>Semi-armor-piercing bomb</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCC</td>
<td>Tactical control unit</td>
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This list of sources includes those documents which have been designated by AAFSOA as most useful in the preparation of this study and includes: (1) exhibits originally attached to the study, (2) general materials previously submitted by AAFSOA which have relevance to the present discussion, and (3) histories of tactical units assigned to the Seventh Air Force.

**Exhibits on File in AAF Historical Office**

The following exhibits originally attached to this study, as submitted by the Historical Division, Directorate of Intelligence, AAFSOA, may be consulted in archives of the Sources and Editorial Division, AAF Historical Office:

**CALVANIC Operation Plans (Exhibit I)**


**FLINTLOCK Operation Plans (Exhibit II)**


**CATHERINE Operation Plans (Exhibit III)**


United States Pacific Fleet, Central Pacific Force, Defense Forces and Land Based Aircraft (Task Force Fifty-Seven), Operation Order No. 2-44, 18 Feb. 1944.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET, CENTRAL PACIFIC FORCES, COMMANDER TENTH STRIKING FORCE, NAVAL ATTACK, MARSHALL ISLANDS, OPERATION PLAN NO. C-2, 5-144, 10 FEB. 1944, WITH ANNEXES.

FIELD ORDERS IN GILBERTS AND MARSHALLS CAMPAIGN (EXHIBIT VII)

FIELD ORDERS OF M.Q., SEVENTH AIR FORCE, FROM F0 1, 1 NOV. 1943 TO F0 321, 16 MARCH 1944.

FIELD ORDERS OF M.Q., VII BOMBER COMMAND, FROM 23 DEC. 1943 TO 22 MARCH 1944, PLUS F0'S FOR 7 AND 30 NOV. 1943.

OPERATION OF THE SEVENTH AIR FORCE, 3 MARCH 1944 TO 15 AUG. 1944 (EXHIBIT V)


STUDIES AND OPERATIONS PLANS (EXHIBIT VI)

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SEVENTH AIR FORCE, 1 NOV. 1943 TO 1 NOV. 1944 (ITEM A).

INFORMATION FROM CHINCHON-GINGPAC FORAGER JOINT STAFF STUDY, 20 MARCH 1944 (ITEM B).


M.Q., CONFIRMED OPERATION PLAN NO. 2-44, 25 MAY 1944 (ITEM D).

DISTRIBUTION OF LANDING FIELD AIRCRAFT UNITS, IN GANVANIC (ITEM E).

AIR EXCERSION IN FLOATLOCK (ITEM F).

AIRCRAFT APPROACH PROCEDURES IN GILBERTS, NOV.-DEC. 1943 (ITEM G).

SEARCH PLAN, NOV. 1943-FEB. 1944 (ITEM H).

AIR ATTACK SUPPORT, MARCH 16, DEC. 1943-1 FEB. 1944 (ITEM I).

DEFENSE OF FONOFONI, 18 JAN. 1944 (ITEM J).

CORRESPONDENCE ON P-39 AND P-40 MODIFICATIONS (ITEM K).

FAC'T INFORMATION (EXHIBIT VII)

ADVANCE OF SEVENTH AIR FORCE, OFFICE OF AD OF S, A-2, APO 2510, FACT ANALYSIS NO. 1, PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE HEAVY AA GUN DEFENSES OF FONOFONI, 16 MARCH 1944, CONGRESSIONAL ITEM (ITEM L).

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Kq., VII Enобор Command, Office of the A-2, AFO 172, Nick Analy-
sta No. 2, Preliminary Analysis of the Heavy AA Gun Defence of Truk, 25 April 1944, with inclusion (Item D).

Kq., VII Enобор Command, Office of the Intelligence Office, AFO 172, Nick Analysta No. 3, Heavy AA Gun Defence of Truk, 26 May 1944, with inclusion (Item C).

Kq., VII Enобор Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, AFO 172, Nick Analysta No. 4, Preliminary Analysis of the Heavy AA Gun Defence of New Guinea, 30 May 1944, with inclusion (Item D).

Kq., VII Enобор Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, AFO 172, Nick Analysta No. 5, Heavy AA Gun Defence of Truk, 9 June 1944, with inclusion (Item D).


Operations Statistics (Exhibit VIII)

Statistical Control Unit Reports


Summary of Fate of Aircraft and Combat Crews of Seventh Air Force during combat operations, Nov. 1943-May 1944 (Item C).

Total Gas and Ammunition Consumption of Tactical Units, Seventh Air Force, Nov. 1943-Jan. 1944 (Item D).

OTHER

Enemy Aircraft Destroyed and Enemy Shipping Attacked, Jan. 1944 (Item E).
Enemy Aircraft Destroyed and Enemy Shipping Attacked, Feb. 1944 (Item F).
Air Strike Date, 1 Jan. to 1 Feb. 1944 (Item G).
Air Strike Date, 1 Feb. to 1 March 1944 (Item H).
VII Fighter Command Mission Reports, 23 Dec. 1943-8 Mar. 1944 (Yen I)

PI Reports - Halsey (Exhibit IX)
PI Reports - Miller (Exhibit X)
PI Reports - Jellicoe (Exhibit XI)
PI Reports - Trekje (Exhibit XII)
PI Reports - Oceen and Huu (Exhibit XIII)
PI Reports - Elmo and Krajalin (Exhibit XIV)
PI Reports - Gouda, Heda, Toren (Exhibit XV)
PI Reports - Lester Gilberts (Exhibit XVI)
PI Reports - Lesser Marshalls (Exhibit XVII)

Reports Relating to GALWANIC (Exhibit XVIII)

9th SCI Report - Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, Carolinans, and Wakeans, April 1944-July 1944 (Exhibit XIX)

Other Materials

The following items forwarded by AAFCA also have relevance to the present study and may be consulted in the files of the AAF Historical Office:

"Mission Reports, ADVCA, 1A Nov.-5 Dec. 1943.
"Seventh Air Force Operations in Gilberts, Marshalls, and Carolinans, Nov. 1943-March 1944.
"Operations of the Seventh Air Force, 1 Feb.-2 March 1944.
"Ferry Fights on Hilma and Gilbert Islands, 11 Nov. 1943-16 Jan. 1944.
"Operation Plan 1-43.
"VII Fighter Command Mission Reports, 6 Dec. 1943-19 March 1944.

Seventh Air Force Participation in the CALVADOs Operation.

Seventh Air Force Participation in the FLINTLOCK–CATCHFOWL Operation.

A-3 7AF Top Diary, 1 Nov. 1963-22 March 1964.

Envelopes: Data on CALVADOs and FLINTLOCK Operations.

History of Tactical Units

The following units assigned to the Seventh Air Force have prepared histories which may be consulted in the AFT Historical Office files:

Headquarters, VII Ember Command
116th Bomb Group (H)
26th Bomb Squadron (H)
426th Bomb Squadron (H)
96th Bomb Squadron (H)
419th Bomb Squadron (H)
50th Bomb Group (H)
270th Bomb Squadron (H)
250th Bomb Squadron (H)
392d Bomb Squadron (H)
315th Bomb Squadron (H)
41st Bomb Group (H)
476th Bomb Squadron (H)
434th Bomb Squadron (H)
396th Bomb Squadron (H)
26th Bomb Squadron (H)

Headquarters, VII Fighter Command
459th Fighter Squadron
46th Fighter Squadron
72d Fighter Squadron
330th Fighter Squadron
8-lb Night Fighter Squadron
310th Fighter Group
158th Fighter Squadron
72d Fighter Squadron
332d Fighter Squadron
68th Combat Mapping Squadron
25th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron

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INFORMATION FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES:
(Attn:paintoni Historical Office)

Subject: Critique of Army Air Forces Historical Studies: No. 29, Operational History of the Seventh Air Force, 6 November 1943 to 31 July 1944.

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