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OPERATIONAL HISTORY

OF THE

SEVENTH AIR FORCE

6 November 1943 to 31 July 1944

The original of this monograph and the documents from which it was written are in the USAF Historical Division, Archives Branch, Bldg. 914, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

AAF Historical Office
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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.

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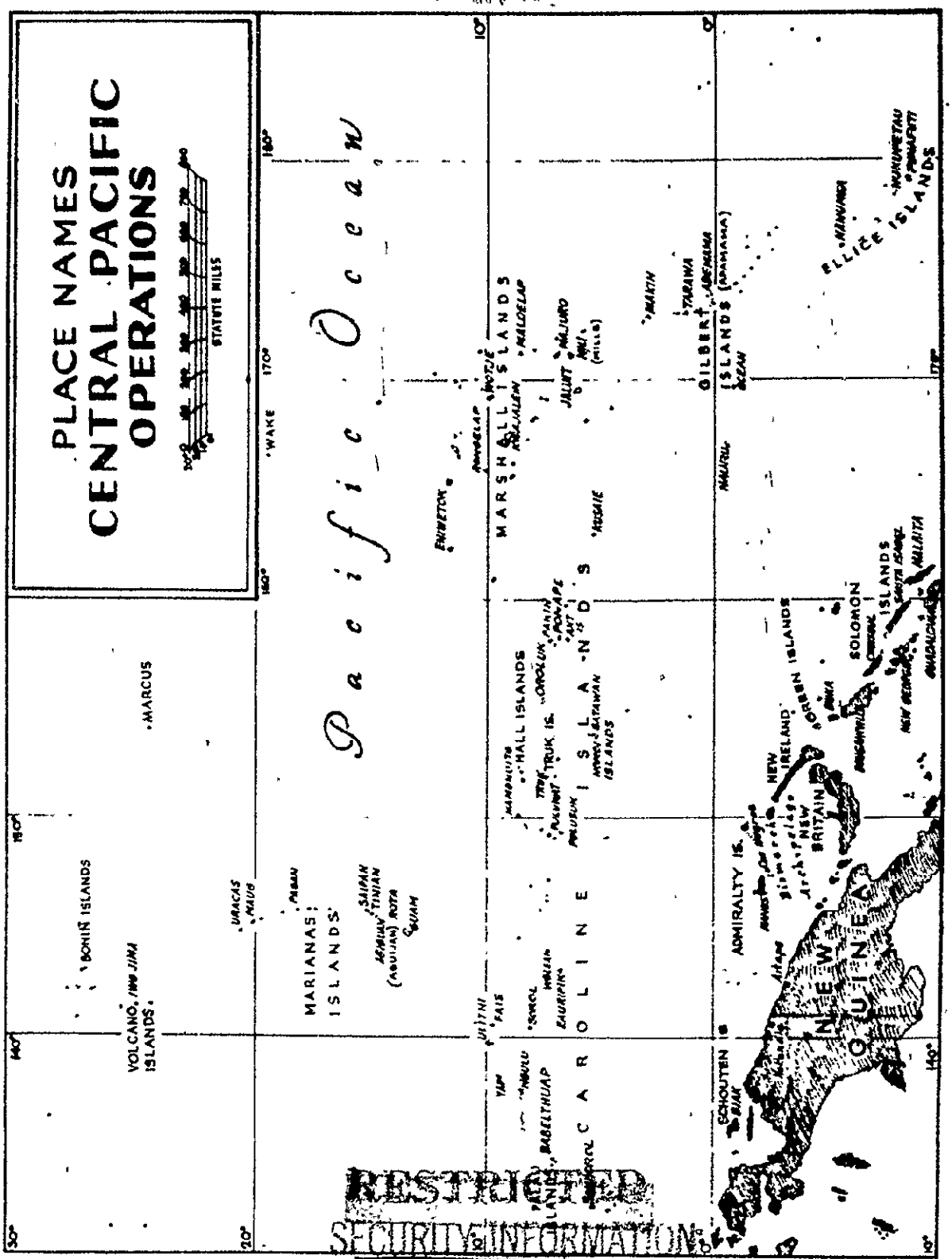

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Chapter I

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.[1] 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 Apamama in the Gilberts, some 2,000 miles south and west of Oahu. For this operation, known by the code name GALVANIC, 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.[2] 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.[4] 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.[5]

These bases were located at Canton, Funafuti, Nukufetau, Nanomea, 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.[6]

On the other three islands there was nothing, and before they

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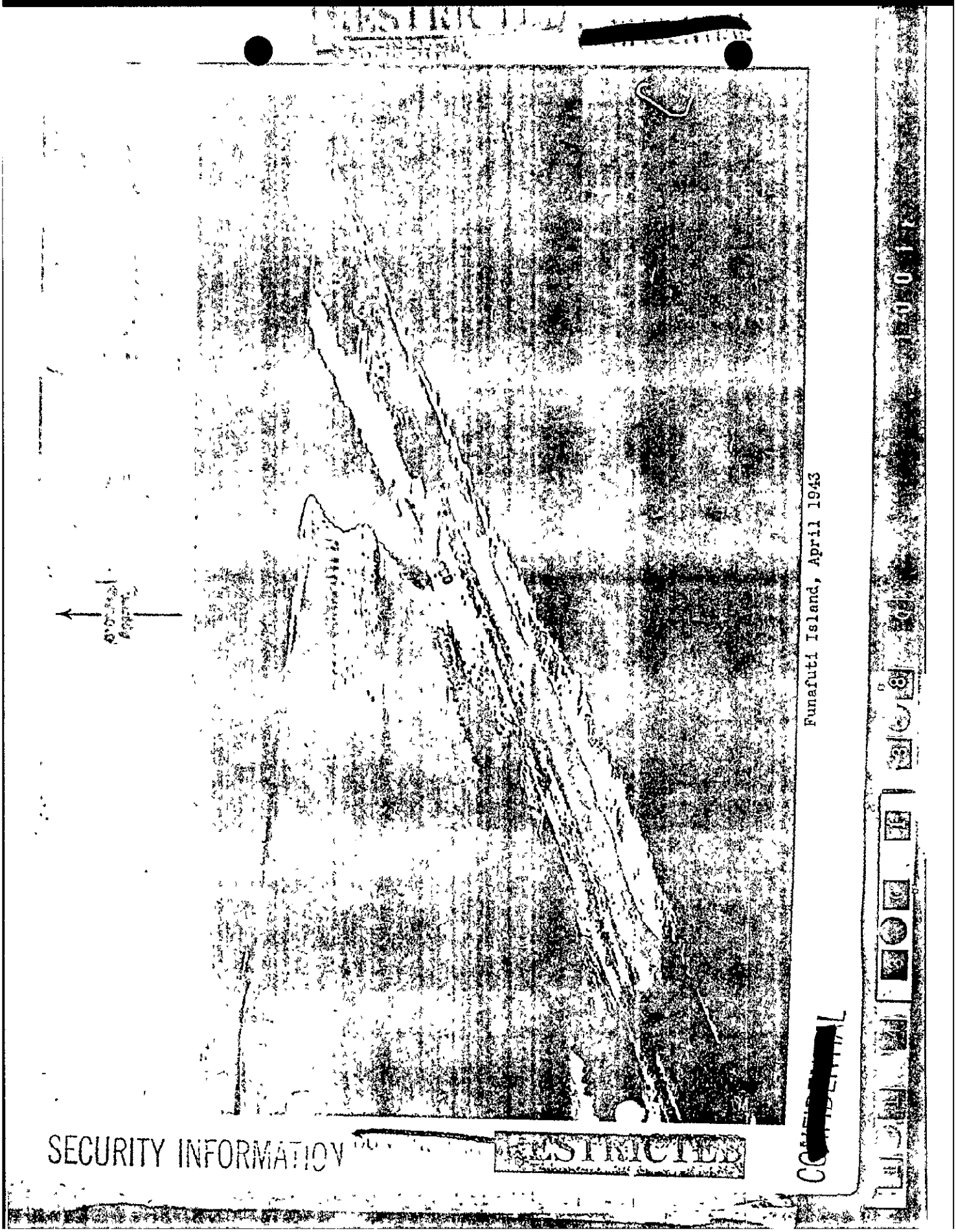

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could be utilized to mount a land-based air attack, it was necessary for Seventh Air Force aviation engineers to move in and hew air strips out of the dense covering of coconut palms. At Nukufetau and Nanomea 6,000-foot bomber strips were constructed, as were fighter strips, 2,850 feet long at Nukufetau and 3,000 feet long at Nanomea. Both were of compacted coral.[7]

At Baker Island one runway was constructed, 5,500 x 150 feet, and covered with Marston mat.[8]

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).[9]

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.[10] 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. Eskridge, A-3; and Col. R. J. Erickson, Adjutant General.[11] In addition to ADVON Seventh Air Force, the VII Air Force Service Command, under Brig. Gen. W. J. Reed, and the VII Bomber Command,

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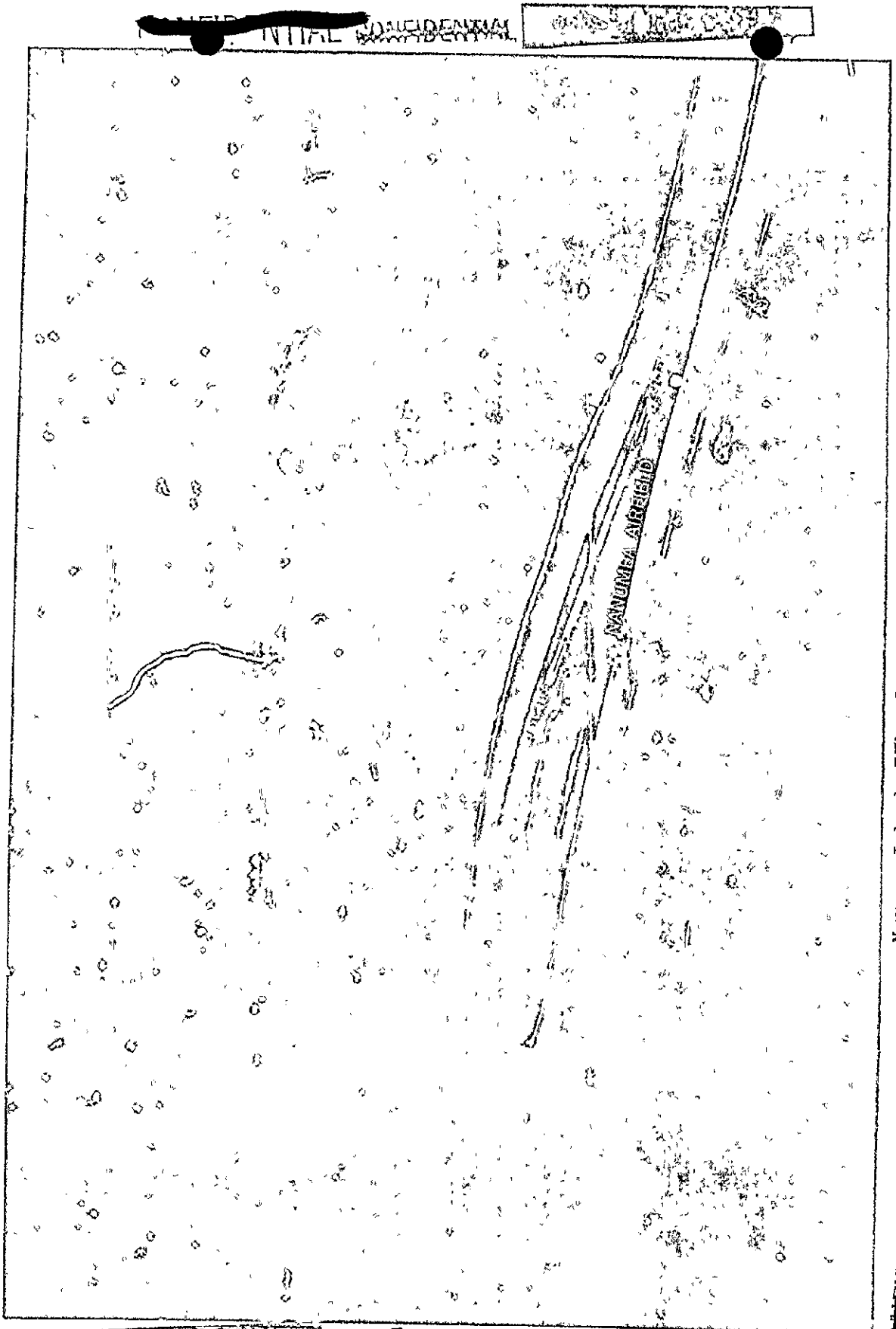

Nanumea Island, ELice Group, 27 October 1943

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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 AIRVON by telephone, teletype, and FM radio. The units of the Seventh Air Force were disposed as follows:[12]

Organization	Station
Headquarters 11th Bomb Group	Funafuti
42d Bomb Squadron	Funafuti
431st Bomb Squadron	Funafuti
26th Bomb Squadron	Nukufetau
98th Bomb Squadron	Nukufetau
Headquarters 30th Bomb Group	Nanomea
27th Bomb Squadron	Nanomea
38th Bomb Squadron	Nanomea
392d Bomb Squadron	Canton
531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron	Canton
46th Fighter Squadron	Canton
45th Fighter Squadron	Baker
1st ASSRON	Baker
3d ASSRON	Funafuti
Detachment 3d ASSRON	Nanomea
Detachment 3d ASSRON	Nukufetau
Detachment 17th Air Base Squadron	Canton
422d Subdepot	Canton

The Seventh Air Force, then, had moved its advanced headquarters 2,244 nautical miles south and west of Oahu. Its units were scattered over five islands, occupying an area stretching approximately 480 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

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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, Bititu (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.[13] Tarawa had been heavily hit by a combined Army-Navy raid in September 1943,[14] but naval air reconnaissance showed that the enemy had rebuilt the island to its original strength, plus additional defenses.[15]

The islands which were to be occupied during GALVANIC, in addition to Tarawa, were Apamama and Makin. No serious resistance was expected at Apamama.[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.[17]

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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.[18]
>
> Mille--An important air base, consisting of two runways, dispersal areas, hangars, barracks, and a strong antiaircraft and ground defensive system, Mille 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.[19]
>
> Maloelap--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 Taroa, 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.[20]
>
> 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.[21]

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, Namur, and Bigej islands.[22] Although Kwajalein did not become a primary target [illegible]

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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]

PLACE	VF	VB	VB(M)	VP	VSO	TOTAL
Tarawa						0
Nauru		6	4			10
Makin				3	4	7
Mille			2			2
Jaluit				4	8	12
Wotje					4	4
Maloelap	27	30	11			68
Kwajalein	27		36		10	73
Eniwetok						0
Wake	18		7		2	27
Totals	72	36	60	7	28	203

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 - Wotje and Maloelap
D-2 day - Kwajalein and Wotje
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

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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 - Tarawa and Makin

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 Makin

The air attack began on 13 November 1943 (D-7) when 18 B-24's of the 11th Bomb Group took off from Funafuti 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 Funafuti, 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 drop their

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loads on Mille 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.

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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]

Target	Tons of Bombs
Gilberts	
Tarawa	63.3
Nauru	36.3
Makin	31.5
Marshalls	
Mille	64.6
Jaluit	61.2
Maloelap	39.6
Enemy Shipping	3.0
TOTAL	299.5

Any attempt to assess the effectiveness of the work of the Seventh Air Force in this operation, as in its other operations, is complicated

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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 78 per cent 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 a matter of hours to repair runways such 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

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the Gilberts, the Evaluation Board concluded:

> 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-24's, 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.

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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.[1] During the remainder of November and most of December, Seventh Air Force Liberators continued to pound Nauru, Mille, Jaluit, and Maloelap from their bases at Canton and in the Ellices, staging through Baker and Nanomea. Beginning 16 December, a new target—Wotje—came under the sights of the B-24's.[2] Wotje, base of a strongly-fortified and well-defended airfield and extensive seaplane servicing facilities,[3] 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 Apamama 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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Makin Island, 20 April 1945

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October, were brought to Tarawa and Apamama.[4] The 46th 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.[5] 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.[6] 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 Apamama and a forward echelon at Makin.[7] Finally, the 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, equipped with A-24's, was assembled on Makin from Oahu and Canton on 22 December 1943.[8]

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.[9] 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.[10] 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.[11] Also in early January, Headquarters 30th Bomb Group was moved from Nanomea to Apamama, the ground echelon arriving on 4 January and the air echelon on 5 January;[12] and the 392d Bomb Squadron was moved from Canton to Apamama, with the ground echelon arriving on 10 January and the air echelon on 19 January.[13] The 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons remained at Nanomea.[14]

To complete the mo[illegible] from the Ellice to the Gilbert Islands,

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ADVON, together with the forward echelons of the VII Bomber Command and the VII Air Service Command, was moved from Funafuti 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 COMCENPAC, 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 VMF 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, a[illegible] under Marine command.[18]

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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:[19]

> (1) deny the enemy the use of his air bases at Mille and Jaluit before D minus 2 day, and maintain the neutralization of those bases thereafter;
>
> (2) destroy enemy aircraft and air facilities at Roi, Wotje, 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 Wotje 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).[20] Actually, all attacks on Wake during this period were by naval aircraft based at Midway.[21]

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

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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

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Maloelap 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.[28] 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 4,600 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.[29]

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.[30] 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 CATCHPOLE 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.[31] 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.[32] Ponape was

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first hit on 14 February, and during the month 121 B-24's were over the island.[33]

Another target hit for the first time in February, and also in connection with the Seventh's mission in CATCHPOLE, was Kusaie, struck initially on 17-18 February.[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.[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.[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 CATCHPOLE operation.[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.[38]

In addition to bombing these two new targets, the B-24's continued during February to strike Maloelap, Wotje, Mille, 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.[39]

B-25's of the 41st Bomb Group (M) went into action for the first time in the Central Pacific on 28 December 1943 when nine of them from the 820th Bomb Squadron took off from Tarawa for an attack on Mille.[40]

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The only other target attacked by mediums during December was Jaluit, over which nine sorties were flown.[41] During January and February, primary targets for the medium bombers were Maloelap and Wotje. Mille and Jaluit also continued to be hit, and in January six sorties were flown against Nauru.[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.[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 Mullinix 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.[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.[45] Yet they proved costly. The 41st Bomb Group lost a total of 17 B-25's

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between 28 December 1943 and 12 February 1944,[46] and in addition suffered damage on 114 sorties.[47] 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.[48] When, beginning 19 February, the B-25's switched to medium-altitude attacks, the number of aircraft destroyed and damaged was greatly reduced.[49]

A-24's of the 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron started hitting Jap installations on Mille and Jaluit from Makin on 18 December 1943.[50] 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.[51] 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.[52] 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.[53] Except for 41 unescorted sorties over Mille, the A-24's were accompanied on all missions by P-39's of the 46th 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.[54]

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.[55] During the landings on

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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.[56] They also provided escort for crash boats and Navy PBY'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.[57] 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.[58] In addition to their striking missions, the P-39's flew 32 interception sorties over Makin and surrounding area.[59] 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.[60]

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.[61] 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

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the entire days of 30 and 31 January 1944 to deny the enemy the use of its airfield during the invasion of Kwajalein.[62] 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 Zekes attacking a force of B-25's.[63] 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.[64] The same load was tried again on 7 February by 16 airplanes.[65] 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.[66] Pilots reported that the heavy 2,000-lb. loads adversely affected flying characteristics of the P-40 in high-speed dives.[67] Still another innovation was attempted on 22 February, when a P-40 on a mission over Mille launched a rocket, although with unobserved results.[68]

During the period from 16 January to 11 March 1944, the Warhawks flew a total of 501 sorties, plus an additional 80 abortives. They dropped a total of 163.9 short tons of bombs on Mille and Jaluit, and expended 158,525 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition.[69]

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

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fighters was gradually appearing in larger numbers.[70] 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 Zeke was damaged, and none of the B-24's was hit.[71] 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 Zeke with two others damaged.[72]

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.[73] The Liberators destroyed five Zekes and one Tony, and the fighters were able to destroy one B-24 and damage 17.[74] A-24'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.[75] After 23 December 1943 there was no further interception over Mille Atoll.[76]

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

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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]

Maloelap 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 back of Jap fighter activity at Maloelap appears to have been broken on 26 January. On that date, nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, being pursued by 18 to 28 aggressive, experienced fighters, were met at a pre-arranged rendezvous over Aur 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 Maloelap, 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

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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 Apamama 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

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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 [redacted] by comparison with

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bombers but hardly short for fighter planes. As one Squadron S-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,[91] 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

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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, bull-dozers, 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.

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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.[98]

TARGET	Short Tons of Bombs Dropped Dec 43	Jan 44	Feb 44	Total
Marshalls				
Maloelap	126.1	192.3	233.2	551.6
Mille	203.6	180.0	154.7	538.3
Wotje	151.5	214.6	261.3	627.4
Jaluit	92.6	131.9	150.0	374.5
Kwajalein	96.8	200.2	18.0	315.0
Majuro	15.0			15.0
Aur		8.5		8.5
Rongelap			8.0	8.0
Arno		5.9		5.9
Likiep		3.0		3.0
Carolines				
Ponape			172.3	172.3
Kusaie			49.3	49.3
Nauru	12.0	4.8		16.8
Shipping		21.0	2.0	23.0
TOTALS	697.6	962.2	1,048.8	2,708.6

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:[99]

	B-24	B-25
Target Destroyed	65%	86%
Target Partially Destroyed	20	11
Target Probably Destroyed	8	1
Unsuccessful	7	2

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

Maloelap--The success of the aerial bombardments directed against MALOELAP in past months is attested by the fact that

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the remaining targets, although very worthwhile, are few and scattered and thus probably more vulnerable to dive-bombing than other types of attack.[100]

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 either revetted or well below ground surface, all effort has been concentrated on strengthening ground defenses, the defenders obviously feeling their island marked for invasion.[101]

Jaluit--With the exception of the northern barracks group which was wiped out by Army Liberator strikes early in December, the seaplane base at EMIDJ offers more or less the same target. Little additional damage has been caused by subsequent strikes.[102]

Wotje--Almost continuous bombing and ship bombardment have been directed against the installations which remained on WOTJE 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.[103]

Regarding the many night harassing strikes made against enemy bases, particularly prior to the invasion of Kwajalein, the A-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."[104]

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.[105] Moreover, the effect of the widespread strikes was to confuse the enemy as to the [illegible] of the next

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amphibious operation and divide his attention.[106]

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.[107]

General Hale summarized the results of Seventh Air Force operations during the FLINTLOCK phase of the Marshalls operations as follows:[108]

> 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 CATCHPOLE phase of the operation were described by Brig. Gen. Robert M. Douglass, Jr., as follows:[109]

> 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 Mili, Wotje, Jaluit, and Malolap 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 [redacted]

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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.[1] The 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron was redesignated the 531st Fighter Squadron,[2] and with the 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons was combined into the 21st Fighter Group (TE).[3] 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,[4] and then to the 7th Fighter Wing,[5] newly activated for the defense of the Hawaiian area and under the operational control of the Central Pacific Base Command.[6]

With fighters and dive bombers removed from the scene of combat operations, there was a tremendous increase in the activity of the

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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.[7] This was increased in April to a high of 875.[8] At the same time, the average length of bombing sorties decreased from 6.9 hours in February to 4.7 hours in March,[9] and to 3.2 hours in April.[10]

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 Maloelap 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.[11]

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 Maloelap 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.[12] These shuttle missions from Tarawa and Makin over Jaluit and Maloelap, with Mille occasionally being hit as an alternate target, became an almost daily occurrence, and soon were referred to by the crews who made them as "the milk runs."[13] Interceptors had long since ceased to appear over even Maloelap, 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 Maloelap and four over Jaluit.[14] Continued bombing had destroyed most of the large targets at both places. Even

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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.[15] The only target area still extensive enough to invite area bombing was Jabor Town on Jaluit Island.[16] 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.[17]

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.[18] 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.[19]

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.[20]

In preparation for the B-24 strikes further along the road to the Japanese homeland, th[redacted] bombardment units of the Seventh Air

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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 Apamama.[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 Apamama 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 Apamama and placed under the operational control of Central Pacific Combat Air Transport Service (CENCATS).[28]

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Kwajalein Island, March 19[illegible]

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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

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Kwajalein Island, 22 March 1944

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attack.[33] 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.[34]

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 perimeter, and the primary base for all South Central Pacific operations.[35] 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 en 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 inclosed 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 Param.

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.

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Eten, 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. Para-, 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 Eten and the seaplane base and tank farm at Dublon.

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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.[37]

During the month of March, 70 B-24 sorties were flown over Truk, and during April this was increased to 250 sorties.[38] 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 (Bettys) were reported by the returning crews.[39] 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.[40] 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.[41] Oftentimes, too, the night fighters did not seem anxious to press the attack,[42] and on the whole it was felt that they were not particularly effective.[43]

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.[44]

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Five B-24's were lost and 10 were damaged over Truk during March and April, probably from antiaircraft and operational causes.[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,[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.[47] Since the field at Eniwetok, from which they started staging on 30 March 1944,[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.[49]

While the bombardment of Truk was being initiated by the B-24's, an earlier target in the Carolines, Ponape,[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.[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 Zekes and Tonys met a squadron of B-25's. Four Zekes were destroyed in the air, and two were probably destroyed. One B-25 was damaged.[52] During the two months, six B-24's were damaged over

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Eniwetok Island, April 1944

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Ponape (all in March), and 23 B-25's were damaged and one was lost.[53]

Ponape Town had, of course, been virtually destroyed by the incendiary attacks of February.[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 Langar Island seaplane base, the ramp was cratered, the hangar was destroyed, 50 buildings were destroyed, and 25 were damaged.[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 Zekes, 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.[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.[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 FORA[illegible] Commander in

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Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPOA), 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 (COMAIRFWD),

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activated on 1 May 1944 and designated as Task Force 59.[62] General Hale, who on 15 April 1944 had been succeeded by General Douglass, as Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force,[63] was selected as commander of this task force and his headquarters was established at Kwajalein.[64] 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:[65]

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

b) 59.2 Bomber Command, under Brig. Gen. Truman H. Landon.

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.[66] 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.[67] The 9th Troop Carrier Squadron was assigned to and operated under the control of CTG 59.5.[68]

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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:[69]

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 57. 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, KUSAIE, 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.[70]

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

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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 248 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 Eniwetok, 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

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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]

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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.[81]

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.[82] 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 Zekes,[83] which were already at high altitude when the target was reached. They probably had been sent up on warning from Hall Island.[84] This was the first time the Seventh's B-24's had encountered daylight interception since early in January.[85] 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.[86] One Zeke was destroyed, two Zekes and one Hamp were probably destroyed, and two Zekes and two Tojos were damaged. None of the B-24's was lost, and only one was damaged.[87]

The returning crews felt that the coordinated aerial bomb and shooting tactic was designed to break up their formation, or else to

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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

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night preceding a daylight-bombing mission by the other two squadrons of the group.[95] During the last half of the month they again switched to daylight missions, flying only two night strikes during the last two weeks.[96] 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.[97]

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.[98] Their tactics remained about the same as they were on the first daylight mission, 13 June;[99] 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.[100]

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.[101] On the next day (21 June), however, six fighters were up to meet one formation of B-24's and nine to meet another.[102] Again, during the second week in July the interception encountered on daylight raids gradually dwindled, until on

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10 July the B-24's were unopposed by fighters.[103] 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 phosphorous 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.[104]

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 PB4Y photo planes over the Marianas, as they had done twice before in April.[105] Two of these missions were over Guam, and one each over Saipan and Rota.[106] 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 Zeke probably destroyed, and six Zekes, two Oscars, and one Hamp damaged. No B-24's were damaged over any of the other targets attacked.[107]

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 41st Bomb Group dropped a total of 258 tons of GP bombs on the atoll.

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The B-25's also strafed with 46,730 rounds of .50-cal. and 217 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition.[108] In addition, the beleaguered garrison was attacked by 26 F6F's, 95 F4U's, and 60 SBD's of the Navy.[109] 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.[110]

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, 24 B-24's and 52 B-25's dropped a total of 98.5 tons of bombs on that target.[111] 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.[112]

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 18 practice sorties were sent over Wotje.[113]

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.[114] At the same time, the percentage of unsuccessful sorties rose from 3 to 13 per cent.[115] Moreover, the ratio of crews to planes ready for combat fell below one.[116] 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

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excessive number of abortive missions and declared that he must have more crews and might need a change of command.[117] 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.[118] On 7 July, Colonel Waldron succeeded Col. William J. Holzapfel as Commanding Officer of the 11th Bomb Group.[119]

There was not much change during July. The percentage of abortives dropped .1 per cent,[120] and that of unsuccessful sorties rose 2 per cent.[121] 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.[122] Also, bombing with AFCE (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.[123]

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.[124] 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.[125] The B-25's also hit these targets in the large-scale attacks conducted in conjunction with B-24 strikes.[126] Ponape, which also was hit by a combined Liberator-

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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.[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.[128] Over Nauru, which furnished some of the most effective antiaircraft fire in the entire Pacific Ocean Areas, 11 B-25's were damaged in 45 sorties.[129] Altogether, seven B-25's were damaged over the Marshalls in May, and none were lost.[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.[131] One squadron felt that this was due, in part at least, to the number of very small target 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.[132]

Except for 17 sorties flown against Jaluit in July, the only targets attacked by the B-25's operating from Makin 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

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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.[133] 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.[134] Six airplanes were damaged in approximately 189 sorties over Ponape during June and July.[135]

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.[136] Although the airstrip was hardly secured, within four hours after arrival eight planes took off on their first ground support mission.[137] 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.[138]

This was the first time fighter planes of the Seventh Air Force had been used in close support of ground troops. During the remainder

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of June and July, and later, the fighter squadrons operating from Aslito (renamed Isely) 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 73d Fighter Squadron and a detachment of seven P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron.[139] 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.[140]

The primary mission of the 318th Fighter Group, as has been indicated,[141] 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.[142] 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.[143] Finally, bombing and strafing attacks were launched periodically on runways, installations, and antiaircraft positions at Rota and Pagan Islands.[144]

The P-47's were versatile. They could strafe with .50-cal. machine

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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,[145] 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.[146] The entire apparatus for mixing and loading the bomb's ingredients had to be constructed from materials at hand.[147] The technique for dropping them was to dive from about 2,000 feet to 50 feet and skip bomb.[148] 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,[149] there was no duds and the bomb burst resulted in a huge sheet of flame covering a sizable area, searing anything within that area.[150] 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.[151]

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.[152] 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.[153] The squadrons reported high bombing efficiency, however, when the objective was the destruction of buildings

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or the neutralization of airfields.[154]

Strafing appears to have been the most accurate means of attack.[155] 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.[156] 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 materiel rather than personnel.[157]

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.[158] Also, it was believed that grid coordinate locations of targets should be checked against photos before the pilots used the maps.[159] 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.[160] 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.[161] The AAFPOA Evaluation Board reported that this system was considered to be very effective.[162]

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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.[163] 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.[164]

On an average, over all targets, the P-47's encountered antiaircraft fire on 52 per cent of their sorties.[165] 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.[166]

Ten were damaged by antiaircraft, and six were damaged in accidents during the period.[167] 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.[168]

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.[169] There was also some dissatisfaction in the 318th Group with the way in which they received their orders.[170] The procurement of ammunition from the beaches and the loading of planes on schedule was a chronic

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problem in the early stages of the campaign, and one that was aggravated by the shortage of trucks.[171]

One of the major problems confronting the 19th 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."[172]

Further, conditions at Isely Field were cramped and limiting. One squadron historical report describes it:[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.[174] Despite all this, however, the fighter planes on Saipan were maintained up to 91 per cent of the total aircraft in commission.[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

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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. Isely 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 26 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 P-47's of the 318th Fighter Group and the P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron, one flight of F-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

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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.[181] 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.[182]

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.[183]

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TARGET	Short Tons of Bombs Dropped					
	March	April	May	June	July	Total
Marshalls						
Jaluit	175.0	326.5	431.3		6.7	939.5
Wotje	68.2	172.5	332.8	2.0	19.6	595.1
Maloelap	187.6	308.2	41.0			536.8
Mille	127.0	34.2	16.0			177.2
Rongelap	3.4					3.4
Carolines						
Truk	140.2	577.5	258.7	566.2	858.0	2400.6
Ponape	204.9	222.0	351.6	138.2	73.9	990.6
Kusaie	35.8					35.8
Oroluk	3.0	3.0	2.0			8.0
Minto Reef	1.5	5.8				7.3
Hall				3.5		3.5
Ujelang		3.0				3.0
Mokil	3.0					3.0
Shipping			2.8			2.8
Puluwat			2.0			2.0
Pingelap	1.5					1.5
Marianas						
Tinian				13.5	475.4	488.9
Rota			1.2	39.5	44.8	85.5
Pagan					27.0	27.0
Saipan		.8	1.0	8.0	13.4	23.2
Guam		.6	3.4	.8		4.8
Wake	142.2	171.3	140.5			454.0
Nauru	11.2		34.2	84.6	92.5	222.5
TOTAL	1104.5	1830.2	1613.7	856.3	1611.3	7016.0

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.[184] In addition, both the effectiveness and the desirability of the bombing of the by-passed Marshalls has been questioned.[185] It has also been pointed out that the effectiveness of the targets in the Carolines bombed by the Seventh Air Force was rapidly waning from outside causes during the period.[186]

Whatever the reason, however, the fact remains that, as the Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force has stated, the Marshalls,

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Wake, Nauru, and the eastern Carolines were completely subdued and kept that way during the entire operation.[187] With the exception of once at Ponape, 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.[188]

Truk, while continuing to offer resistance in the form of both interception and antiaircraft,[189] was badly battered and wholly incapable of use as a threat to our bases or an impediment to our movements in the FORAGER campaign.[190]

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CONCLUSION

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 P-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

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war—flights in which the vastness of the Pacific Ocean at times equalled 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:[1]

Target	Short Tons
Gilberts	
Tarawa	63.3
Makin	31.5
Marshalls	
Jaluit	1375.2
Wotje	1222.5
Maloelap	1128.0
Mille	780.1
Kwajalein	315.0
Majuro	15.0
Rongelap	11.4
Aur	8.5
Arno	5.9
Likiep	3.0
Shipping	26.0
Carolines	
Truk	2400.6
Ponape	1162.9
Kusaie	85.1
Oroluk	8.0
Minto Reef	7.3
Hall	3.5
Ujelang	3.0
Mokil	3.0
Shipping	2.8
Puluwat	2.0
Pingelap	1.5
Marianas	
Tinian	488.9
Rota	85.5
Pagan	27.0
Saipan	23.2
Guam	4.8
Wake	454.0
Nauru	275.6
Total	10024.1

During the nine months, too, the forward units of the Seventh Air Force had moved steadily away [redacted], the Hawaiian

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Islands, and closer to the Japanese homeland. In November 1943 they had been stationed in the Ellice Islands, some 2,200 miles from Oahu 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]

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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 6 November 1943.

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

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

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

6. Incl. 1, memo, Maj. John W. McIlvaine, Asst. A-2 and Maj. Maurice Broner, Asst. SigO F/E VII BC to CG VII BC, 19 Oct. 43.

7. Incl. 1, memo, Maj. John W. McIlvaine, F/E VII BC to CG VII BC, 17 Oct. 43; incl. 2, memo, Maj. John W. McIlvaine and Maj. Maurice Broner, F/E VII BC to CG VII BC, 19 Oct. 43.

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

9. History of 30th Bomb Gp.; History of 41st Bomb Gp.

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

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

12. Ibid.

13. ICPOA Bulletin 11-43, Tarawa, 1 Feb. 43; 7AF PID, PI Report 59, 24 Sep. 43.

14. See Operational History of Seventh Air Force, 7 December 1941 to 6 November 1943, pp. 40-41.

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

16. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, CG 7AF to CTF 57, subject: Operations of Seventh Air Force--13 November 1943 through 31 January 1944, dtd. 15 Feb. 44.

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17. Ibid.; Statement on Makin Island in VII BC files.

18. JICPOA Bul. 56-43, Jaluit, 10 Dec. 43.

19. JICPOA Bul. 50-43, Mille, 15 Dec. 43.

20. JICPOA Bul. 52-43, Maloelap, 25 Nov. 43.

21. ICPOA Air Target Bul. 30, Nauru, 15 Feb. 43.

22. JICPOA Bul. 53-43, Kwajalein, 1 Dec. 43.

23. 7AF FO 2, 2 Nov. 43.

24. Figures from an unsigned statement on Hq. Advon 7AF stationery, dated 13 Nov. 43, in VII BC A-2 files, folder on Enemy Air Order of Battle.

25. 7AF FO 2, 2 Nov. 43.

26. Ibid.

27. Advon 7AF FO 4a, 13 Nov. 43.

28. Ibid., Change 1, 14 Nov. 43.

29. Advon 7AF Consolidated Mission Report 1, 14 Nov. 43.

30. Advon 7AF Mission Reports 8 and 10, 20 Nov. 43.

31. Advon 7AF Mission Report 11, 20 Nov. 43.

32. Operations of 7AF, as cited in n. 16.

33. Ibid.

34. Ibid.

35. Teletype from CG VII BC to CG 7AF, 14 Jan. 44, in Advon 7AF, Misc. Msg.

36. Ibid.

37. Advon 7AF Mission Reports.

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

39. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, Marshalls, and Carolines, November 1943 to March 1944," p. 1.

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

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

42. Ibid., pp. 21-22.

43. Ibid., p. 55.

44. Ibid., p. 23.

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Chapter II

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

2. F/E VII BC Mission Report 30, 17 Dec. 43.

3. JICPOA Bul. 57-43, Wotje, 15 Dec. 43.

4. Dates of arrival were as follows: Hq. 41st Bomb Gp., at Tarawa, 17 Dec. 43; 47th Bomb Sq., Apamama, 23 Dec. 43; 48th Bomb Sq., Apamama, 22 Dec. 43 (except that the air echelon was at Baker until 14 Jan. 44); 396th Bomb Sq., Tarawa, 24 Dec. 43; and 820th 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 46th 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 45th Fighter Sq.

8. History of 531st Fighter Sq.

9. F/E VII BC Mission Report 38, 27 Dec. 43.

10. Dates of arrival were as follows: Hq. 11th Bomb Gp., 20 Jan. 44; 26th Bomb Sq., 23-24 Jan. 44; 98th Bomb Sq., 20-23 Jan. 44; 431st Bomb Sq., 15-20 Jan. 44. Information from unit histories.

11. History of 42d Bomb Sq.

12. History of 30th Bomb Gp.

13. History of 392d Bomb Sq.

14. Histories of 27th and 38th Bomb Sq.

15. Advon 7AF, FO 13A, 20 Dec. 43.

16. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., CG 7AF to CTF 57, subject: Operations of Seventh Air Force, 1 February 1944 through 2 March 1944, dtd. 4 May 44, in AG 7AF 370.26.

17. For the task organizations see COMCENPAC Operation Plans Cen 1-44, 6 Jan. 44, and Cen [redacted] 9 Feb. 44.

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18. See p. 1.

19. COMCENPAC Operation Plan Cen 1-44, 6 Jan. 44.

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

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

22. See 1st Lt. Chester W. Taylor, Asst. A-2 VII BC, "Operations of the Seventh Bomber Command in the Marshall Islands Offensive," 15 Sep. 44; and 9th SCU "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 9.

23. Advon 7AF and F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

24. "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 9.

25. Advon 7AF and F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

26. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 9.

27. Advon 7AF and F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

28. Ibid.

29. F/E VII BC Mission Report 96, 3 Feb. 44.

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

31. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

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

33. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

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

35. JICPOA Bul. 60-43, Kusaie, 20 Dec. 43.

36. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

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

38. Ibid.

39. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

40. Ibid., 44, 1 Jan. 44.

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

42. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

43. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 19.

44. Taylor, "Operations of the Seventh Bomber Command in the Marshall Islands Offensive."

45. Ibid.

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

47. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

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

49. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

50. 531st Fighter-Bomber Sq. Mission Report 531-1, 18 Dec. 43.

51. Ibid., 1-19.

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

53. Ibid.

54. Ibid., p. 27.

55. VII FC Provisional Gp. Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.

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

57. VII FC Provisional Gp. Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.

58. Ibid.

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

60. Ibid., pp. 36, 38.

61. VII FC Provisional Gp. Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.

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

63. See p. 25.

64. VII FC Provisional Gp. Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44; 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 43.

65. VII FC Provisional Gp. Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.

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

67. VII FC Provisional Gp. Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.

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

69. 9th SCU, "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.

71. F/E VII BC Mission Report 38, 27 Dec. 43.

72. Ibid., 42, 29 Dec. 43.

73. Ibid., 24-B, 13 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.

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83. Ibid., 85, 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 H. Hale, to CTF 57, 15 Feb. 44.

88. Taylor, "Operations of the Seventh Bomber Command in the Marshall Islands Offensive," pp. 12-13.

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

90. 318th Fighter Gp. Intel. Bul. 3, 28 Jan. 44.

91. See p. 9.

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

93. Ibid.

94. "Preliminary Organizational History of VII Bomber Command, 1 May 1931 to 31 July 1944," p.39.

95. Ibid., p. 41.

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 SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 1.

99. Ibid., pp. 10, 20.

100. COMAIRCENPAC PI Report 95, 6 Mar. 44.

101. Ibid., 65, 16 Feb. 44.

102. Ibid., 64, 16 Feb. 44.

103. Ibid., 77, 26 Feb. 44

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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.

106. Taylor, "Operations of the Seventh Bomber Command in the Marshall Islands Offensive."

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

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

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

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Chapter III

1. See Chap. II.
2. GO 60, HQPA, 27 Feb. 44.
3. GO 113, HQPA, 21 Apr. 44.
4. GO 47, 7AF, 24 Apr. 44.
5. GO 90, 7AF, 3 July 44.
6. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, subject: 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, and Marianas, April 1944-July 1944," p. 26.
9. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 19.
10. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 26.
11. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
12. Ibid., 184, 1 Apr. 44.
13. History of 820th Bomb Sq., Apr. 44.
14. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
15. COMAIRCENPAC PI Report 118, 21 Mar. 44.
16. Ibid., 120, 25 Mar. 44.
17. History of 820th Bomb Sq., Apr. 44.
18. COMAIRCENPAC PI Reports 107, 10 Mar. 44; and 118, 15 Mar. 44.
19. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
20. Ibid.

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21. Dates of arrival at Makin: Hq. 41st Bomb Gp., 24 Apr. 44; 47th Bomb Sq., 21 Apr. 44; 48th Bomb Sq., 23-24 Apr. 44; 396th Bomb Sq., 20 Apr. 44; 820th Bomb Sq., 23-27 Apr. 44. Information from unit histories.

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

23. Dates of arrival at Kwajalein were as follows: Hq. 30th Bomb Gp. ground echelon, 12 Mar. 44--air echelon, 26 Mar. 44; 27th Bomb Sq. ground echelon, 12 Mar. 44--air echelon, 26 Mar. 44; 33th Bomb Sq. ground echelon, 13 Mar. 44--air echelon, 22 Mar. 44; 392d Bomb Sq, ground echelon, 17 Mar, 44--air echelon, 26 Mar. 44. Information from unit histories.

24. Dates of arrival at Kwajalein were as follows: Hq. 11th Bomb Gp., 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 26th Bomb Sq.

26. History of 98th Bomb Sq.

27. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

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 1943.

32. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

33. F/E VII BC Mission Report 161, 15 Mar. 44.

34. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

35. Information from JICPOA Bul. 22-44, Truk, 25 Feb. 44; and ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

36. Ibid.

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37. F/E VII BC Mission Report 167, 29 Mar. 44.

38. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

39. "Preliminary Organizational History of VII Bomber Command, 1 May 1931 to 31 July 1944," p. 51.

40. Ibid.

41. Ibid., p. 49.

42. Ibid., p. 52.

43. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

44. "Preliminary Organizational History of VII Bomber Command, 1 May 1931 to 31 July 1944," p. 50.

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. 36-37.

47. History of 11th Bomb Gp., Apr. 44.

48. F/E VII BC Mission Report 196, 2 Apr. 44.

49. History of 11th Bomb Gp., 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.

55. Incl. B, ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

56. F/E VII BC Mission Report H-217, 24 Apr. 44.

57. Ibid., H-231, 3 May 44; and H-252, 3 May 44.

58. CINCPOA-CINCPAC Serial 00345, Operation Plan 3-44, 23 Apr. 44.

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59. Ibid.

60. Ibid.

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

62. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

63. GO 40 and 41, 7AF, 15 Apr. 44.

64. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 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. 55-56.

67. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

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

69. Annex A, Hq. ComAirFwd Operations Plan 1-44, 1 May 44.

70. CINCPOA-CINCPAC Serial 00031, Forager Joint Staff Study, 20 Mar. 44.

71. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 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.

76. "Preliminary Organizational History of the VII Bomber Command, 1 May 1931 to 31 July 1944," pp. 49-50.

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

78. History of 392d Bomb Sq., May 44. Quoted in "Preliminary Organizational History," p. 50.

79. History of 26th Bomb Sq. Quoted in "Preliminary Organizational History," p. 50.

80. History of 30th Bomb Gp.

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81. Ibid.

82. History of 11th Bomb Gp.

83. F/E VII BC Mission Report H-268, 16 June 44.

84. Ltr., Asst. S-2 26th Bomb Sq. to CO 11th Bomb Gp., 15 June 44.

85. See pp. 24-25.

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

87. F/E VII BC Mission Report H-268, 16 June 44.

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

89. Ltr., Asst. S-2 26th Bomb Sq. to CO 11th Bomb Gp., 15 June 44.

90. Ibid.

91. History of 11th Bomb Gp.

92. History of 30th Bomb Gp.

93. History of 27th Bomb Sq.

94. History of 30th Bomb Gp.

95. History of 27th Bomb Sq.

96. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

97. History of 11th Bomb Gp.

98. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

99. See p. 48.

100. F/E 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-292, 16 July 44.

104. Ibid., H-294, 16 July 44.

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105. See p. 42.

106. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

107. Ibid.

108. Ibid., H-250, 19 May 44; and M-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 M-250, 30 May 44.

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

112. Ibid., H-236, 11 May 44.

113. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

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

115. Ibid., p. 12.

116. Ibid., p. 8.

117. CM-IN-27042822, CTF 59 to CG 7AF, 27 June 44, in AG 7AF 373.2, Operations & Reports (Bombing).

118. CM-OUT-2723322, CG 7AF to CTF 59, 27 June 44, Ibid.

119. GO 2, Hq. 11th Bomb Gp.

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

121. Ibid., p. 12.

122. History of 11th Bomb Gp.

123. Ibid.

124. See pp. 33-35.

125. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

126. See p. 52.

127. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

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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. ComAirFwd FI 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 Natoma Bay (CVE-62) Serial 211 to Commander Carrier Transport Sq. Pacific Fleet, 8 July 44. History of VII Fighter Command, Nov. 44.

137. "Ordnance and Armament Information Digest," Doc. 3, History of VII Fighter Command, Sep. 44.

138. "Ordnance and Armament Information Digest," Doc. 3, History of VII Fighter Command, Sep. 44.

139. History of VII Fighter Command, Aug. 44; 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 47.

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., APO 244 to CG VII FC, APO 958, 1 Aug. 44, Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41-July 44.

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147. History of 318th Fighter Gp.

148. History of 73d Fighter Sq.

149. History of 318th Fighter Gp.

150. History of 73d Fighter Sq.

151. Ltr., CO 318th Fighter Gp., APO 244 to CO VII FC, APO 958, 1 Aug. 44, Doc. 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 73d Fighter Sq.

154. Ibid.

155. Ibid.

156. Ibid.

157. Ibid.

158. Ibid.

159. Hq. VII FC, "Conclusions Based on Mission Reports from 318th Fighter Gp.," by Col. Sylvan Berliner, A-2 VII FC, 15 Aug. 44, Doc. 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 Tinian was made available." History of 73d Fighter Sq. July 44.

160. Hq. VII FC, "Conclusions Based on Mission Reports from 318th Fighter Gp."

161. History of 73d Fighter Sq., July 44.

162. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, pp. 38-39.

163. Summary of 318th Group Mission Reports in Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41-July 44.

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164. Ibid.

165. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 41.

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.

171. "Ordnance and Armament Information Digest," 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 SCU, "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.

182. F/E VII BC Intel. Bul. 44-2 F/E, B-25 Tactical Support Missions in the Marianas, 13 Sep. 44.

183. In addition to the tonnage listed, 144 fire bombs were dropped over Tinian in July. Ujelang in the Carolines was an unauthorized target. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 1; 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 1.

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184. See pp. 52-53.

185. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, pp. 35-36.

186. Ibid.

187. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

188. Ibid.

189. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

190. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44.

CONCLUSION

1. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 1; 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 1.

2. Preliminary History of the Seventh Air Force, 1 to 30 Sep. 1944, p. 5.

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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 AFSC, 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 26th Bomb Squadron and 98th Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Group, arrived at Nukufetau. (History of 26th 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 Squadron (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.)

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* 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.

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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 Nukufetau. (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 Nukufetau. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

13 Nov. 43 TARAWA - Nine B-24's of 42d 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 42d Bomb Squadron dropped 55 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 15,000 feet. AA intense but inaccurate, and caused no damage. One airplane disappeared on way back to Funafuti and was not heard from again. (Advon 7AF Consolidated Mission Report 1, 14 Nov. 43.)

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 135 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters from 16,500 to 17,500 feet, 70 per cent on runways and taxi strips. Heavy AA accurate as to altitude, but trailing, and caused no damage. No interception. (Advon 7AF Consolidated Mission Report 2, 16 Nov. 43.)

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 9,500 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 7AF Mission Report 3, 14 Nov. 43.)

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 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 4,500 to 8,500 feet, with several hits observed on or near runways. Intense AA damaged two B-24s. Three airplanes dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Makin. AA light and inaccurate. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 5, 13 Nov. 43.)

JALUIT - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron assigned mission against seaplane base at Emidj, and seven B-24s of 42d Bomb Squadron assigned Jabor Island are

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15 Nov. 43 (Contd) Eight of 431st dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs on target from 5,500 to 8,600 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 42d dropped 36 x 500-lb. GPs from 12,000 to 13,900 feet in vicinity of shipping in lagoon. AA inaccurate, and caused no damage. (Advon 7AF Consolidated Mission Report, 16 Nov. 43.)

16 Nov. 43 KWAJALEIN - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Roi Island. One reached the target and dropped 15 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 30 fragmentation clusters on Jaluit from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, destroying one warehouse. They were intercepted by two Petes, one of which was damaged. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 6, 16 Nov. 43.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Roi Island, Kwajalein. They did not reach target because of weather and dropped 12 x 500-lb. demolition bombs and 45 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters on Emidj 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.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron at Nukufetau staged through Nanumea to perform daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Taroa Island. Three were abortive. The remaining six first mistook Aur for Taroa, but realized mistake and went on to Taroa where because of cloud coverage no bomb run was made. Interception by 12 to 16 Zekes, of which two were shot down, two probably shot down and one was damaged. The B-24's expended 4,230 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. None of the B-24's was damaged. (Advon 7AF Consolidated Mission Report 7, 18 Nov. 43.)

17 Nov. 43 TARAWA - Three B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Betio 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. (Advon 7 AF Mission Report 10, 20 Nov. 43.)

MILLE - Six B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and six of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Mille from Funafuti. Three airplanes were abortive because

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17 Nov. 43 (Contd) of engine trouble. Nine dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 65 x 100-lb. demolition bombs, with hits on runway and airfield installations. AA moderate and fairly accurate, causing minor damage to four B-24's. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 8, 20 Nov. 43.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged thru Baker in daylight bombing and photo mission against Taroa. One was abortive because of gasoline leak. Eight dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 90 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. All of the GPs 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. (Advon 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. 43 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 756 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters on Mille, 90 per cent on island. AA intense and accurate, causing 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. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 11, 20 Nov. 43.)

19 Nov. 43 TARAWA - Ten B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron, nine of 431st Bomb Squadron, and one each from Headquarters 11th Bomb Group 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 150 x 100-lb. GP's, 50 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. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 12, 22 Nov. 43.)

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 45 x 125-lb. fragmentation clusters from 10,000 to 10,400 feet, with

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19 Nov. 43 (Contd) 55 per cent of the demos 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. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 13, 21 Nov. 43.)

21 Nov. 43 NAURU - Four B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron, with two Navy PB4Y photo planes, in daylight mission over Nauru from Nanumea, 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. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 14, 24 Nov. 43.)

NAURU - Six B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Nauru from Funafuti. Two abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Four dropped 80 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,500 to 11,000 feet, 55 per cent hitting runways and installations. Medium and heavy AA inaccurate, causing no damage. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 14A, 22 Nov. 43.)

NAURU - Seven B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Nauru from Funafuti dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,600 to 13,000 feet, of which 34 hit fuel storage and revetment areas. Medium and heavy, accurate AA damaged three airplanes. (Advon 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 Nukufetau. 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-24s. Three Rufes were seen airborne over target, but there was no interception. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 16, 26 Nov. 43.)

24 Nov. 43 MILLE - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, with four B-24's from 392d 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, Hamps, and Tonys, 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. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 15, 24 Nov. 43.)

Ground echelon of 30th Bomb Group and 38th Bomb Squadron arrived at Nanumea. 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.)

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26 Nov. 43 MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 12 of 38th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Taroa from Nanumea. 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 Zekes intercepted the 27th, which was the first squadron over the target. One Zeke was probably destroyed. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 17, 26 Nov. 43.)

27 Nov. 43 MILLE - Nine B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mille from Nukufetau. One abortive due to mechanical malfunctions. Eight dropped 195 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,800 to 12,500 feet, with 185 hitting the island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One Zeke made one pass at a B-24 but did no damage. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 18, 28 Nov. 43.)

28 Nov. 43 NAURU - Eight B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and three of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Nauru from Nanumea 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. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 19, 29 Nov. 43.)

The 45th Fighter Squadron arrived at Nanumea, 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 Nanumea. 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 vessel near Taroa, getting near misses. (Advon 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 80 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 12,000 feet, of which 54 hit target area on Taroa. Interception by 35 to 40 Zekes, of which 11 were shot down, nine probably shot down, and four damaged in running attack lasting 35 minutes. AA accurate as to 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. (Advon 7AF Supplement to Mission Report 20, 5 Dec. 43.)

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DECEMBER

1 Dec. 43 MILLE - Seven B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight strike against Mille 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 Mille. 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 26th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 431st, 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: 1,880 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 22, 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 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,00 to 13,000 feet, with all bombs hitting on or near assigned targets. One large fire was visible for 60 to 75 miles at 10,000 feet. Meager and inaccurate AA caused minor damage to one B-24. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 23, 5 Dec. 43.)

7 Dec 43 MALOELAP - Eight B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in dawn mission over Taroa from Nukufetau. Two failed to reach the target. Six dropped 36 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 Zekes 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 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 8,800 feet, 100 per cent on the island. AA intense and accurate as to altitude, but trailing. The 26th 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. 43.)

8 Dec. 43 MILLE - Eleven B-24's of 26th 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, Mille, 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

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8 Dec. 43 (Contd) in amount and efficiency since previous mission. Interception 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 12,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. No fighters were destroyed. Distance flown: 2,794 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 24B, 13 Dec. 43.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eleven of 38th Bomb Squadron in mission against Emidj from Nanumea. 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 330 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 25, 9 Dec. 43.)

9 Dec. 43 MILLE - Ten B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron and nine of 451st Bomb Squadron in mission against Mille from Funafuti dropped 60 x 500-lb. and 235 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 26, 11 Dec. 43.)

12 Dec. 43 JALUIT - Thirty-nine B-24's of 27th, 38th, 42d, and 98th Bomb Squadrons in daylight strike at Jaluit from Funafuti, Nukufetau, and Nanumea. Fourteen did not reach the target because of the weather or mechanical difficulties. Twenty-five dropped 420 x 100-lb., 51 x 500-lb., and 4 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 300 to 15,000 feet. Results were undetermined, although 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 29, 14 Dec. 43.)

13 Dec. 43 WOTJE - Eleven B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned daylight attack on Taroa from Canton. One was abortive because of excessive gas consumption. Ten attacked the alternate target of Wotje, dropping 80 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 95 per cent in target. 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 30, 17 Dec. 43.)

14 Dec. 43 MALOELAP - Eleven B-24's of the 451st Bomb Squadron, and seven of the 42d Bomb Squadron with three of the 98th attached, staged through Nanumea for daylight strike against

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14 Dec. 43 (Contd) 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 3,000 to 14,000 feet, 90 per cent on island, starting numerous fires. One airplane salvoed 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: 98th, 2,585 statute miles; 42d and 431st, 2,705 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 32, 17 Dec. 43.)

Pilots and airplanes (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 WOTJE - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker on mission against Wotje. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,000 to 16,000 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.)

MALOELAP - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 38th Bomb Squadron in strike at Taroa from Nanumea. 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 all 22 planes was 420 x 100-lb. and 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs. Those actually dropped over island were 80 per cent in the target. Bombing runs were made from 3,500 to 8,600 feet. Interception by 15 to 30 Zekes and Hamps, with fight beginning as far as 10 miles from target. Enemy dropped 40 to 60 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 33, 17 Dec. 43.)

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 Maloelap. Airplanes 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 35, 21 Dec. 43.)

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17 Dec. 43 (Contd) 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 13 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 Nanumea 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 285 x 100-lb. and 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 1,500 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 4 to 8 Zekes, 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 35, 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 Zekes on the ground. Airplanes of the 46th Fighter Squadron strafed gun positions and runways with 125 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. One P-39 was lost operationally. Distance flown: 485 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-1, 18 Dec. 43; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

MILLE - Eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mille expended 2,031 rounds of .50-cal. and 45 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. Two P-39's were abortive because of engine trouble. Six Zekes were destroyed and three Zekes and one medium bomber were damaged on the ground. Meager and inaccurate AA caused minor damage to two P-39's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

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18 Dec. 43 (Contd) ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39's 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. 43 MILLE - Fourteen P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mille expended 3,528 rounds of .50-cal. and 92 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, destroying three Zekes 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. 43.)

MILLE-MALOELAP - The 27th, 38th, and 26th Bomb Squadrons assigned daylight attack on Maloelap. Nineteen B-24's, consisting of 10 of 27th and nine of 38th, encountered tropical front enroute to target, and bombed Mille 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 Maloelap. One did not drop bombs because of rack malfunctions. Ten dropped 80 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 Zekes, Hamps, and Oscars, which made approximately 50 shooting passes and dropped aerial bombs in a fight lasting 40 minutes. Seven Zekes were probably destroyed and five were damaged. Ten B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 3,027 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 36, 22 Dec. 43.)

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron went up to intercept enemy bombers over Makin, expended 845 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. 43.)

20 Dec. 43 MALOELAP - Eleven B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker for daylight strike against Taroa. 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

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20 to 25 Zekes, with some possible Tonys and Hamps, of which three were destroyed, four probably destroyed, and nine damaged. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 37, 22 Dec. 43.)

MALOELAP - Eight B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron, with one from 431st Bomb Squadron attached, took off from Nanumea for daylight strike on Tarea. 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 Tarawa for the same reason. Five other B-24's were damaged. Distance Flown: 2,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Supplement to Mission Report 37, 24 Dec. 43.)

MILLE - Twelve P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille, primarily to observe shipping. No shipping sighted. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

ENEMY 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

KWAJALEIN - Four B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and four of 38th Bomb Squadron escorted four Navy PB4Y photo planes over Kwajalein from Nanumea. One hundred twenty 100-lb GP bombs were dropped as follows: 45 on Roi, 15 on Enmuebing, 15 on Kwajalein 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. (F/E VII BC, Mission Report 38, 27 Dec. 43.)

JALUIT - Twelve A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron accompanied by 5 SBD's and 15 F6F's, attacked shipping and installations at Emidj 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 hanger line, damaging both hangars and seaplane base, and starting fire near center of island. AA intense but inaccurate from Emidj. AW from ships and island intense and accurate. One A-24 was shot down. Distance flown: 590 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-2, 21 Dec. 43.)

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21 Dec. 43 (Contd) — MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron one of which was abortive, in reconnaissance over Mille for shipping. None was observed. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

MILLE - Sixteen P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron strafed fuel dumps, shipping and AA positions at Mille with 5,276 rounds of .50-cal. and 232 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. Four to 6 Zekes observed airborne. Two dropped phosphorous bombs, but did no damage. (Ibid.)

22 Dec. 43 — MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in daylight dive-bombing attack on large cargo vessel in Mille lagoon from Makin. They dropped 30 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. AA meager to moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two A-24's. The dive bombers were escorted by 16 P-39's and 16 F6F's. One Zeke was shot down by the F6F'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 .30-cal. ammunition. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-3, 24 Dec. 43.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed shipping in the lagoon. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Ground Echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron arrived at Apamama, having departed Oahu 2 Dec. 1943. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

23 Dec. 43 — MILLE - Ten A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron escorted by 20 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 Zekes, 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-4, 24 Dec. 43; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

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23 Dec. 43 (Contd) 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

KWAJALEIN - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa from Nanumea for strike 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/E VII BC Mission Report 40, 24 Dec. 43.)

WOTJE-MALOELAP - 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 Maloelap 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 Zekes, Oscars, and Tonys. In a battle lasting approximately 35 minutes, the fighters dropped 12 to 15 aerial bombs. One Tony and three Zekes were destroyed, four Zekes 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/E VII BC Mission Report 39, 27 Dec. 43.)

The 47th Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, arrived at Apamama, having departed Oahu 3 Dec. 1943. (History of 47th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

23-24 Dec. 43 Enemy Action - Eighteen P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons airborne over Makin for 10-hour period to intercept enemy bombers. They expended 366 rounds of .50-cal. and 13 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, shooting down two Vals. One P-39 was lost operationally. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

24 Dec. 43 WOTJE - Ten B-24's of 98th 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,

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24 Dec. 43 causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (F/E VII-BC Mission Report 41, 27 Dec. 43.)

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.)

26 Dec. 43 MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 531st 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 meager and trailing. AW intense. Two A-24's received minor damage. Six P-39's were abortive. The remainder expended 582 rounds of .50-cal. and 33 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 FC Provisional 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, expended 118 rounds of .50-cal. and 10 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. One P-39 was damaged. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Air echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, having departed Oahu on 25 Dec. 1943. (History of 820th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

26 Dec. 43 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 5 to 6 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. 43.)

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

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26 Dec. 43 (Contd) MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mille expended 851 rounds of .50-cal. and 25 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, with results unobserved. Meager AW caused no damage. (Ibid.)

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

27 Dec. 43 MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d 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 72d Fighter Squadron up over Makin to intercept enemy bombers. They got only fleeting glimpse 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 72d 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 188 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 500 feet in close formation, because of poor visibility. They expended an unreported amount of ammunition in strafing, silencing one gun position. Distance flown: 630 statute miles. (F/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 72d 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 1,500 to 3,000 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. AW moderate. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-6, 5 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 431st Bomb Squadron, and nine of 98th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Maloelap. Seventeen were abortive because of weather

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28 Dec. 43 (Contd) conditions. Five dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on barracks, oil storage, and shop areas at Taroa, 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, inaccurate AA at Mille. Interception by 35 to 40 Zekes over Maloelap, and by four Zekes and two Tonys 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: 3,020 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 43, 3 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP - Eight B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker for attack on Taroa. 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 accurate. 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 Tarawa for attack on Kwajalein. One was abortive because of instrument failure in frontal weather. Two dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping at Kwajalein, getting near-misses. Four dropped 48 x 500-lb. GPs on Ebeye Island, 60 per cent in target area. Eleven dropped 132 x 500-lb. GPs on Bigej, which was mistaken for Ebeye, 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 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight, low-level mission against Jaluit from Tarawa. Escort of eight F6F's lost contact enroute. The B-25's dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 15 x 100-lb. parachute fragmentation clusters, in addition to firing 91 x 75-mm. shells. AW 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 Makin. The A-24's dropped 55 x 500-lb. and 22 x 100-lb.

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30 Dec. 43 (Contd) GP bombs from 1,500 to 2,000 feet, with 66 hits in target areas. AA after dives intense, but trailing. One A-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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 551-7, 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.)

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1 Jan. 44 MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th 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 MALOELAP - 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 19 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet, with hits on Enybor, Emidj, and Jabor. AA and AW meager, inaccurate and trailing. However, one B-25 was destroyed over target when its right wing fell off and it exploded, probably as the 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 46th Fighter Squadron assigned reconnaissance mission over Mille were abortive because of the weather. (Ibid.)

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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 push-over was from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with pull-out at 2,000 feet. Two of the P-39's were abortive. Remainder expended 1,730 rounds of .50-cal. and 102 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.)

4 Jan. 44 JALUIT - Eighteen B-24's of the 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa to drop 253 x 6 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters and 100 x 34 x 4-lb. incendiary clusters on Emidj 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 30th Bomb Group arrived at Apamama, having departed Nanumea, 2 January 1944. Rear echelon of 45th Fighter Squadron arrived at Apamama. (History of the 30th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 45th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

5 Jan. 44 MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin for attack on shipping at Maloelap. Shipping not sighted because of the weather. All planes returned to base with bombs. Distance flown: 1,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 51, 7 Jan. 44.)

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5 Jan. 44 (Contd) Air echelon of 30th Bomb Group departed Nanomea and arrived at Apamama 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

7 Jan. 44 MALOELAP-WOTJE - Fourteen B-24's of 26th and 98th Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in night mission against Maloelap. 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: 2,818 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 50, 11 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Twenty-two A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 11 Marine F6F's, in daylight mission from Makin dropped 35 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj, 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-24 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 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. Dense rain clouds obscured target and made observation impossible. (VII FC 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 Akeo Island, 24 on Taroa (Maloelap), 48 on Emidi (Jaluit), 12 on shipping in Likiep lagoon, and 12 on southernmost island of Erikub Atoll. AA from Wotje and Emidj very inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,240 statute miles. (F/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. (F/E VII BC Unnumbered B-25 Mission, 10 Jan. 44.)

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8 Jan. 44 (Contd) MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed three to seven aircraft, but believed them to be dummies. No AA. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39's of 43th Fighter Squadron up to intercept two flights of enemy bombers over Makin, but made no contact. (Ibid.)

10 Jan. 44 MILLE - 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 Mille, 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 340-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 392d Bomb Squadron arrived at Apamama, having departed Canton on 5 January 1944. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

10-11 Jan. 44 MALOELAP-MILLE - Sixteen B-24's of the 26th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in night strike on Taroa. They dropped 608 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 per cent on the island, starting several fires which were visible for 45 miles at 9,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 2,521 statute miles. Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker, also in night strike on Taroa. Five were abortive. The remainder, because of cloud coverage, struck Mille instead of Taroa, dropped 24 x 500-lb. GPs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, with results unobserved. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 2,550 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 54, 17 Jan. 44.)

11 Jan. 44 MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping at Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 30 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 Tjan, Gijibai, Allot, and Tar, causing fires. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by eight Zekes, one possible Tony, three of which were damaged. Two B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 53, 13 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in dive-bombing, strafing, and reconnaissance mission over Mille dropped 2 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 442 rounds of .50 cal. and 18 rounds

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of 37-mm. ammunition, with hits on runways. Meager AA caused no damage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

12 Jan. 44 MILLE - 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 1,500 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-10, 14 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

13 Jan. 44 WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th 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 airdrome. AA intense and accurate, causing damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 56, 15 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - 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 Mille from Makin. They dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 36 x 500-lb., and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent on target area. Dives begun at 10,000 feet, pull-outs at 1,500 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 37-mm. ammunition. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. One A-24 was slightly damaged. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-11, 16 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in strafing mission over Mille. Two were abortive. Remainder strafed beached boat with 600 rounds of .50-cal. and 31 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. No. AA. (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 38th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa in night strike on Kwajalein. They dropped 40 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Nemur and 20 on Roi; 140 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Nemur, 20 on Roi, and 20 on Ennubirr. Bomb runs were made from 400 to 12,000 feet. Large fires and explosions were observed on Roi

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14 Jan. 44 (Contd) and Namur. AA meager and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 2,418 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 55, 18 Jan. 44.)

WOTJE - 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 50 feet. One cargo vessel was probably sunk, and another was hit. Runways hit with bombs and 19 rounds of 37-mm. and 3,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AW intense and accurate, damaging two B-25's. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 56-A, 15 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th 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 Apamama, and forward echelon of 45th Fighter Squadron arrived at Makin from Nanomea. (History of 48th 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. Bettys 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-25s sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 57, 17 Jan. 44.)

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

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, having departed Funafuti on 12 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.)

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16 Jan. 44 MILLE - 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 Mille 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 531-12, 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 Mille. Expended 30 rounds of 37-mm. and 873 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 Nell. Five additional P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron up to intercept unidentified enemy aircraft over Makin made no contact. (Ibid.)

17 Jan. 44 MILLE - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in attack on Mille from Apamama 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 64 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,975 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AW 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.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance and dive-bombing mission over Mille 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.)

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18 Jan. 44 MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight, low-level attack on Mille from Apamama 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 98 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AW 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 531st 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 FC 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 FC 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 Zekes 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 Apamama. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

20 Jan. 44 WOTJE - Eight B-24's of 431st 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.

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20 Jan. 44 (Contd) Distance flown: 1,155 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 61, 24 Jan. 44.)

ARNO - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Apamama and six of 820th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa assigned mission against Maloelap. 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 96 parafrag clusters on Arno from 30 to 75 feet, and fired 35 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.)

AILINGLAPALAP - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in mission against shipping at Ailinglapalap 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 6,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The corvette was gutted and left burning, and the schooner was considered destroyed. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Nine P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission over Mille were abortive because the atoll 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 Mille, 100 per cent on target. One P-40 crashed in ocean on return to base. Six P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron covered PBY 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 Nukufetau 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 98th 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 38th 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 fighter attacking Roi at low level,

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21 Jan. 44 (Contd) drew intense but inaccurate AW and SA. No other AA fire received. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,247 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 63, 25 Jan. 44.)

AUR - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron and one of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group, in daylight attack on Malcelap, 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 meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 997 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 64, 27 Jan. 44.)

ARNO - Six B-25's of 820th 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 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 11 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, dropped 37 x 500-lb. and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on oil storage at Tiniet, and guns 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 Tiniet was visible for 20 miles. The P-40's dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 8,285 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. A corvette was left in flames 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, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in attack on Mille from Apamama 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: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 65, 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 Condolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

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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 431st Bomb Squadron, and one of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight strike on Kwajalein from Tarawa. One was abortive because of mechanical trouble. Ten dropped 400 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Roi from 16,760 to 18,000 feet, 90 per cent on the target, starting large fires. Seven, because of delay in takeoff, dropped 84 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj (Jaluit) from 7,600 to 12,000 feet, 95 per cent on island. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. No AA at Mille; meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate AA at Emidj, and intense and inaccurate AA at Roi. Interception at Kwajalein by 12 to 15 Zekes and Hamps, airborne when bomb run began. They dropped 6 to 10 aerial bombs. One Zeke was destroyed, and seven were probably destroyed. Five B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 1,110 to 3,200 statute miles. (F/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 50 to 100 feet, 97 per cent hitting target area on Tjan. Also strafed with 52 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. AW and SA meager and inaccurate. Interception by about 30 Zekes and Hamps, 10 Tonys, two Nates, 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 engine shot out if he knew how to feather his prop, and by telling formation to slow down, etc. Seven Zekes, one Hamp, and one possible Fred definitely destroyed; three Zekes, one Hamp, 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: 1,350 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 67, 26 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. GPs on island, in addition to expending 84 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 68, 25 Jan. 44.)

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22 Jan. 44 (Contd) ARNO-MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance for shipping at Arno and Mille. No shipping observed. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

23 Jan. 44 WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, eight of 38th Bomb Squadron, and eight of 392d 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/E VII BC Mission Report 69, 28 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa and nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Apamama in daylight strike on Maloelap dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on aircraft and air installations at Taroa 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 Zekes and Hamps, which made approximately 140 passes in a 35-minute attack. The 48th Squadron was intercepted after leaving the target by 25 Zekes and Hamps, and were engaged for approximately 25 minutes. Pilots seemed experienced, but not aggressive. Three Zekes were destroyed, two Hamps were probably destroyed, and nine Zekes and Hamps were damaged. In addition, three Zekes were destroyed, and two Zekes and two Bettys 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/E 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: 1,388 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Report, 24 Jan. 44.)

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

24 Jan. 44 MALOELAP - 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

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to 11,000 feet, 95 per cent on land, starting large fires. One, unable to locate primary target, dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille from 6,000 feet; and another due to a navigational error dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Wotje from 10,800 feet. AA over Taroa intense and inaccurate. AA over Wotje meager and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 1,265 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 71, 27 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 820th 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 sloop 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 sloop. Details of attack by other two airplanes (destroyed) not reported. Three bombs bracketed sloop. 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 to accurate. Interception by 30 Zekes and Hamps, with up to 80 passes reported. Four aerial bombs were dropped. One Zeke or Hamp was destroyed, and one Zeke 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 43 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Intense and accurate AA caused minor damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 1,062 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 72, Separate Section, 27 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-four A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by seven P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron and 12 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, in attack on Mille 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 Zeke was probably destroyed on the ground. AA meager and inaccurate. AW moderate and trailing. 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 531-15, 27 Jan. 44;

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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 dusk attack on Kwajalein dropped 720 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,900 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 73, 29 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-four A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 72d fighter Squadron and four of 46th Fighter Squadron, in attack on gun positions on Mille from Makin. One A-24 was abortive because of engine trouble. Twenty-three dropped 50 x 500-lb. and 16 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 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 for 25 miles at 500 feet. AA reported as moderate and inaccurate, but four A-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-16, 27 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

AILINGLAPALAP - 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 74, 27 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 398th Bomb Squadron in mission against Taroa from Tarawa dropped 22 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet on Taroa, 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 35 minutes of combat. Eight to ten aerial bombs were dropped. One Zeke 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 74, 29 Jan. 44.)

RESCUE - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in search for crew of B-25 forced down near Arno on 24 January. Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron covered rescue of crew by PBY. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

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26 Jan. 44 MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Makin dropped 82 x 100-lb. and 2 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 200 feet on Taroa, first small island north of Taroa, 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. AW and SA moderate and accurate. Interception by 18 to 28 Zekes and possible Freds. 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 Maloelap, and drove off the enemy fighters. The P-40's expended 7,055 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The Bomber Command reported enemy 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 Zeke 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 Mille by eight P-39's of 72d 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 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 25 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 75 feet on Aineman Island and one /on ?/ a 200-foot cargo vessel near Aineman. 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 Aineman. AA and AW intense and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 978 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 77, 29 Jan. 44.)

SEARCH - Four B-25's of 396th 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 MALOELAP - Eight B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron in dusk attack on Taroa 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.)

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27 Jan. 44 (Contd) WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin to drop 51 x 100-lb. and 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 15 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, AW, and SA intense and accurate. One B-25 was shot down, and three B-25's sustained minor damage. Twelve P-40'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 396th 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 SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 793 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 80, 29 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-three A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and two of 48th 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: 485 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-17, 29 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

ESCORT - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron met PB4Y's returning from photo mission over Wotje at Majuro. No contact with the enemy. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

Eight crews and airplanes of the 820th Bomb Squadron sent to Makin to stand alerts. Returned to Tarawa on 1 February 1944. (History of 820th Bomb Squadron, 59, 31 Mar. 44.)

28 Jan. 44 KWAJALEIN - Eight B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in night attack on Kwajalein 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 10,800 feet on Roi and Namur, and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Ainsman Island (Jaluit) 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.)

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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 8,000 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, 85 per cent on target, starting two large fires. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroa from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate. No AA at Taroa. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 976 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 83, 1 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin in daylight attack on Taroa. Two were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Six dropped 48 parafrag clusters, 12 x 100-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 65 to 100 feet, 80 per cent on target. In addition, they fired 47 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50 cal. ammunition. One Zeke 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 Zekes 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 Zeke 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 45th Fighter Squadron, after orbiting for 25 minutes, met formation in vicinity of Aur and escorted it back to Makin. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E 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.)

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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 Roi Island, the primary target, 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Roi or Namur, and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Kwajalein Island. One plane dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille because of adverse weather conditions. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged.

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29 Jan. 44 (Contd) Distance flown: 1,149 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 87, 3 Feb. 44.)

KWAJALEIN - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in night bombing attacks on Kwajalein from Apamama. One was abortive because of failure to find the target. Seven, over the target individually, dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kwajalein Island from 2,000 to 11,000 feet, 65 per cent in target. One hit alternate target, Millé, with 12 x 500-lb. GPs from 7,800 feet, 100 per cent on target. One airplane received spasmodic 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 431st] in mission against Wotje from Tarawa. One found Wotje and Maloelap completely overcast and jettisoned its bombs. Three dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 4,000 to 11,000 feet, 24 of which fell on airfield, causing fires. Two dropped 23 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille Island from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. One dropped 11 x 500-lb. GPs on an undetermined island, Mille Atoll, and one dropped 10 x 500-lb. GPs 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: 1,288 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. GPs 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 F6F'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: 1,116 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 90, 4 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin for mission against Maloelap. Two were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Primary and secondary targets at Taroa not visible because of weather, so seven B-25's dropped 30 x 100-lb. frags and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tjan 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 [illegible]

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29 Jan. 44 (Contd) Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 89, 2 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Eighteen A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 45th 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 Emidj, 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: 590 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-18, 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 38 rounds of 37-mm. 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.)

30 Jan. 44 KWAJALEIN - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and four of 98th 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 2,800 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 the 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 91 and 92, 2 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eight P-40's of 45th 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 1,380 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The P-39's strafed with 23 rounds of 37-mm. and 1,005 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.

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WOTJE - 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 108 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. (F/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 Mille 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. AW meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two A-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (F/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 Mille 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.)

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FEBRUARY

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 4,000 to 4,600 feet, in addition to strafing with machine guns. Seventy-eight per cent of the bombs hit the target area. The northwest area of the [redacted] appeared to be on fire. No AA. None of the B-24's were 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 2,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Ninety-eight per cent 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 Makin 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 Zeke 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 inaccurate bursts of AA, and

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4 Feb. 44 (contd) 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.)

MALOELAP-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 144 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 1,800 feet and strafed area, with results unobserved. The activity of the other two airplanes was unreported. Only two flashes of AA at Taroa. AW 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 50 to 100 feet on Wotje, and expended 111 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. 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.)

MALOELAP - 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, islands northwest of Taroa, and Reuters, in addition to expending 98 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 because of cloud coverage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

5 Feb. 44 JALUIT - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance, 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 190 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. (Ibid.)

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6 Feb. 44 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 102, 9 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Four B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Tarawa, dropped 48 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 7,800 to 8,500 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-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in daylight dive-bombing attack from Makin 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 hangar. AA, AW, and SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (F/E 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 MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Apamama in mission against Maloelap. Landed at Makin to close formation. One failed to take off from Makin because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 50 to 300 feet, 80 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. (F/E 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.)

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7 Feb. 44 (contd) 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 FC 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

8 Feb. 44 MALOELAP - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and three of 38th Bomb Squadron in attack on Maloelap 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.)

MALOELAP-MILLE - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Wotje from Apamama. 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. GPs 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 FC 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. AW meager 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

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10 Feb. 44 MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in dusk-to-dawn mission against Maloelap 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.)

JALUIT - 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: 1,450 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 110, 12 Feb. 44.)

11 Feb. 44 WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th 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.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in strike on Maloelap 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 flights 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.)

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11 Feb. 44 (contd) The 46th Fighter Squadron departed Makin for Oahu. (History of 46th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

12 Feb. 44 WOTJE - 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, 14 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in strike on Maloelap from Apamama dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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 PBY'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 624 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape Island and 174 x 100-lb. GPs 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. GPs 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.)

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14 Feb. 44 (contd) WOTJE-MALOELAP-MILLE - 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 24 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Taroa from 6,900 to 10,500 feet, 79 per cent in target area. One dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,700 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate, and at Taroa moderate and inaccurate. There was no AA at Mille. 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-lb. 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: 2,240 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 118, 17 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. and 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille, 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 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille. Two were abortive. Ten dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 1,575 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - One A-24 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-MALOELAP - 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 24 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Taroa from 10,500 to 14,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA at Wotje. Intense and accurate AA at Taroa. Two B-24's were damaged slightly. Distance flown: 1,100 to 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 121, 17 Feb. [illegible])

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16 Feb. 44 (contd) 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 FC 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 on 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

17 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.)

17-18 Feb. 44 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 100-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 Kusaie, which they did with 60 x 100-lb. GPs 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 Kusaie. Distance flown: 1,932 to 2,166 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 123, 20 Feb. 4

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17-18 Feb. 44 (contd) KUSAIE-JALUIT - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight attacks from Apamama. Six dropped 180 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Port Lottin and Lele 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: 1,704 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 Emidj believed destroyed. Intense AA caused no damage. (VII FC 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 420 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 10,800 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

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19-20 Feb. 44 (contd) Large explosion observed west of service apron. No AA. None of the B-25's was 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

20-21 Feb. 44 WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje 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 Apamama. Nine dropped 54 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. GPs on Kusaie from 9,000 feet, results unobserved. Four B-24's rearmed at Roi Island (Kwajalein) and dropped 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj (Jaluit) from 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA and AW meager and inaccurate at Ponape, intense and accurate at Emidj. No AA at Kusaie. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,656 to 2,546 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 129, 1 Mar. 44.)

MALCELAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in mission from Apamama. 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. AW and AA 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 FC 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 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Thirteen dropped 376 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, 100 per cent hits, setting large areas in Ponape Town on fire. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 9,000 feet, 60 per cent hits. One large fire was started. Two airplanes reported meager and inaccurate AA from Ponape, and from Kusaie there was none. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,612 to 2,240 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 127, 25 Feb. 44.)

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22 Feb. 44 KUSAIE - One B-24 of 431st Bomb Squadron in strike against shipping reported in Kusaie harbor. It found no shipping, so dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie 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 14 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 3,415 rounds of .50-cal ammunition. 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 FC 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

23-24 Feb. 44 KUSAIE - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in attack on Kusaie 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. AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,350 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 128, 24 Feb. 44.)

KUSAIE-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 Kusaie from 10,000 feet, results unobserved due to cloud cover. Seventeen dropped 485 x 100-lb. GPs 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. GPs on Emidj. It was estimated that 95 per cent of all bombs dropped on Emidj hit target areas. No AA at Kusaie. Moderate AA and AW at Emidj. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,881 to 2,729 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 130, 26 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 48th 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.)

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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 Aineman. 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. AW meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. Crews of A-24's reported: "Emidj Island now looks as bad as Mille." Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-27, 24 Feb. 44; VII FC 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 FC 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 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 feet, 64 per cent in target area. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,051 statute miles. (F/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 Tiniet. One 35-foot boat was sunk. No AA. One P-40 crashed, possibly hit by ricocheting bullets. (VII FC 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 48th 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. (F/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.)

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25-26 Feb. 44

PONAPE - Seventeen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa dropped 39 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 86 clusters of 14 x 6-lb. incendiaries, 87 clusters of 34 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, 28 Feb. 44.)

PONAPE - Eight B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Apamama 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 2,645 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 136, 27 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 7,760 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in or near target areas. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 137, 28 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 Emidj 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: 615 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Emidj Island, Jaluit, 28 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 3,345 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. They got seven hits on runway. Installations at Burrh Island were destroyed. (VII FC 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.)

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26-27 Feb. 44 — WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apamama 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 Jabor 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 531-38, 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. GPs on Emidj from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 66-100 per cent hits. AA 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 Apamama. 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 Apamama dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 8,500 to 11,000 feet, 78 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.)

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28 Feb. 44 — MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 3,220 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Eight of the bombs hit runway, and two in area of radio installation. Runways inoperational. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

28-29 Feb. 44 — WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,300 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 Makin and Apamama. 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.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs on Mille and fired 385 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Six bomb hits in stores area started fires. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 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 airdrome 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 Emidj 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.)

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29 Feb. - 1 Mar. 44 (contd)

JALUIT-MILLE - Two B-25's of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Enybor 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 accurate as to altitude but to right of formation. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 616 statute miles; second strike, 658 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Jaluit and Mille, 3 Mar. 44.)

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MARCH

1 Mar. 44 JALUIT - Nine A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, dropped 9 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on ammunition storage at Emidj, 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 Enybor totally destroyed, and radio station on Emidj damaged. AA meager and inaccurate. AW intense and accurate after dives. One A-24 had left wing-tip torn off by AW fire. Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomb 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.)

1-2 Mar. 44 MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Apamama 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 Hq. VII 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.)

2-3 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. GPs 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 Apamama. 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.)

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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 84 x 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 21 x 500-lb. GPs on alternate target, Kusaie, from 9,500 to 10,700 feet, 66 per cent on piers and adjacent buildings. Two dropped 14 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj, the last resort target, from 9,000 to 14,000 feet, 100 per cent on land. One dropped 7 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille from 10,000 feet, results unobserved. AA at Ponape moderate to intense, and generally inaccurate. AA at Emidj meager and inaccurate. No AA at Kusaie 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 BC Mission Report 147-A, 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 24 x 500-lb. bombs. (VII FC 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 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,200 to 8,700 feet, 92 per cent hitting runways and adjacent areas. Fire was visible for 50 miles. Bomb hits 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 8 x 500-lb. bombs on runways at Mille and fired 655 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC 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 36 x 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 24 x 500-lb. bombs and 24 x 20-lb. frags, 100 per cent on runways and airfield installations, and fired 3,060 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

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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 18 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 Mille 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 Mille. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,120 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 152, 9 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Tarawa. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,500 feet, results unobserved because of 100 per cent cloud cover. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille, 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 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against runways at Mille. 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 100-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. (531st 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 64 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 Apamama. 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 Lele Harbor. Ten dropped 267 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:

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7 Mar. 44 (contd) 1,444 to 1,592 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 154, 8 Mar. 44.)

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. ammunition. Intense AW damaged wing of one P-40. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

7-8 Mar. 44 MALOELAP - Sixteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloelap from Apamama dropped 64 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, 63 of which hit targets--runways, AA positions, stores and barracks--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 unobserved. AA moderate to intense, and inaccurate to accurate. Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 155, 9 Mar. 44.)

8 Mar. 44 PONAPE - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in mission over Ponape from Makin. Seven dropped 210 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 12,000 to 12,300 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. AW at Kusaie intense and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 154-A, 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 inaccurate 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.)

8-9 Mar. 44 WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarawa 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 156, 11 Mar. 44.)

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9 Mar. 44 — MALOELAP - Fourteen B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Apamama. Five were abortive because of weather conditions. Nine dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,200 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. (F/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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

9-10 Mar. 44 — PONAPE - 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 Langar Island from 10,500 to 15,000 feet, 75 per cent on target. Eleven fires were visible for 30 miles at 11,000 feet. Three dropped 18 x 500-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on or near targets at Lole Harbor. AA at Ponape moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Kusaie. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,500 to 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 158, 11 Mar. 44.)

10 Mar. 44 — KUSAIE - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Kusaie from Engebi dropped 1 x 500-lb. GP bomb from 100 feet, destroying one three-story building on Lole Island, and fired five rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager to moderate, and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 854 statute miles. (Hq. 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 A-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 AA positions. AA moderate and accurate. AW 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 FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - One B-25 of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,700 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. Distance flown: 810 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 13 Mar. 44.)

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10-11 Mar. 44 — WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje 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/E 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/E VII BC Mission Report 161, 15 Mar. 44.)

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

11-12 Mar. 44 — MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Taroa from Apamama. 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/E VII BC Mission Report 160, 14 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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/E 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 Apamama. 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/E VII BC Mission Report 169, 14 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of the 27th Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Nanomea on 2 March 1944. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

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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. AW 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 168, 17 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Jaluit from Apemama dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 75 per cent on gun emplacements. AA intense to moderate, and inaccurate to accurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 980 statute miles. (F/E 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 200 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 received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,425 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Kusaie Island, 26 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of the 38th Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Nanomea 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 ore processing plant and 12 near runways. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with 50 per cent hitting targets on Molaneil Island and Lele 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 164, 17 Mar. 44.)

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13-14 Mar. 44 (contd) MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Mille from Apamama 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. GPs 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, 684 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 163-S, 14 Mar. 44.)

14 Mar. 44 KUSAIE - Three B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Engebi dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Molaneil Island from 150 to 200 feet, and fired 23 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Results were unobserved. SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 990 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Kusaie Island, 24 Mar. 44.)

14-15 Mar. 44 WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 108 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.)

15 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 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 10,000 to 13,000 feet. The 38th Squadron got 94 per cent hits on aircraft installations on Eten and on seaplane base area on Dublon, starting fires at both places. The 392d got 100 per cent hits in tank farm area on Dublon. Terrific explosions, illuminating clouds over Truk, were visible 30 miles away on return. Two B-24's dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Oroluk Atoll from 11,500 to 13,500 feet, results unobserved; and two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Ponape Town 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

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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: 3,218 to 3,700 statute miles. (F/E VII BC 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 Taroa 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 Engeriben Island. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Distance flown: 1,110 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 166, 17 Mar. 44.)

16 Mar. 44 Rear echelon of 45th Fighter Squadron departed Apamama 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, with two hitting seaplane base and six in water. Nine dropped 108 x 100-lb. G Ps on Ormed Island from 7,800 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on installations on south shore. Smoke visible for 30 miles at 1,500 feet. No AA. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 171, 18 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Mille from Apamama 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 rearmed 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, 405 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 170-A, 19 Mar. 44.)

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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 — PONAPE - Nineteen B-24's of 26th and 98th Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission against Ponape. 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 2,300 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 Ponape moderate and accurate as to altitude but trailing. AW 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. Ten 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 to moderate 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 — PONAPE - Two B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Engebi dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape 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. SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Ponape 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 48th 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 Tiniet 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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18-19 Mar. 44 (contd)

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 Emidj 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 431st 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.)

19-20 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. GPs 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 cotter 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 Apamama dropped 66 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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 island. Smoke was visible for 40 miles at 8,000 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 Emidj from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent in storage and barracks

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19-20 Mar. 44 (contd)

area. White and gray smoke was visible for 10 miles at 8,500 feet. AA meager and inaccurate. AW meager and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. One B-25 rearmed at Kwajalein and one at Majuro, and on return they dropped 4 x 500-lb. and 4 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille, 50 per cent on land. No AA. Distances 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 431st 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.)

20-21 Mar. 44

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. and 108 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 7,200 to 8,700 feet, with hits on radio station and pier west of radio station. Black smoke visible for 20 miles. AA meager 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 rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 12 x 100-lb. GPs 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.)

21 Mar. 44

MILLE-MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apamama 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 meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. They landed at Apamama, and nine went out again. Five dropped 75 x 100-lb. GPs on Taroa from 12,000 feet, 40 per cent on target; and four dropped 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Wotje from 12,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Taroa meager and inaccurate. No AA at Wotje. None of the B-25'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.)

21-22 Mar. 44

PONAPE - Eleven B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 431st 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. GPs and 6 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Kusaie from

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21-22 Mar. 44 (contd) 7,500 to 10,000 feet, starting fire on pier at Lele Harbor. Two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Mokil Island from 7,500 to 9,000 feet, with eight hitting building area and four in water. One dropped 6 x 500-lb. GPs on Pingelap Island from 10,100 feet, with results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate at Ponape. 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, 28 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 Taroa from 9,500 to 10,500 feet. Hits were scored on northern part of island and in south barracks area, although 38 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.)

22 Mar. 44 MILLE - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mille from Apamama. One was abortive because of failure of bomb release. Nine 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 Engebi, 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. GPs 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.)

22-23 Mar. 44 JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Apamama. 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, 84 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, 28 Mar. 44.)

23 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

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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 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. One dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Wotje from 8,500 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 46th 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 48th 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 10,000 feet, with results unobserved. One made second attack from 50 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 Nikalap 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.)

MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa. One abortive because bomb release was not in proper slot. Eleven dropped 8 x 500-lb. and 108 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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 rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 4 x 1,000-lb., 4 x 500-lb., and 108 x 100-lb. GPs on Emidj from 7,800 to 9,000 feet, with hits near radio station and seaplane hangar. Red flames and black smoke visible for 20 miles at 8,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 700 statute miles; second strike, 530 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 184, 1 Apr. 44.)

24 Mar. 44 SHIPPING - Three B-25's of 820th 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.)

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24 Mar. 44 (contd) 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-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Jaluit from Tarawa. Six dropped 70 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj, 100 per cent on gun positions and storage area. Two dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Aineman, all in water. Four dropped 48 x 100-lb. GPs on Tiniet, 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 Tiniet 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 186, 1 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE-ANT - Thirteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape and Ant Atolls from Eniwetok bombed as follows from 50 to 11,000 feet: 36 x 120-lb. frags on Langar Island, 48 x 120-lb. frags and 3 x 500-lb. GPs on Ant Atoll, 2 x 500-lb. GPs on Nanue Island, 7 x 500-lb. GPs on Ponape Island, and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Ronkiti Town. In addition they fired 65 rounds of 75-mm. and 9,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 187, 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 PONAPE - Thirteen B-25's 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. AW and SA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by 15 Zekes and Tonys 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 Zekes 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.)

MALOELAP - Fifteen B-25's of 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Maloelap from Apamama. One was abortive because of losing formation in front. Ten dropped 40 x 500-lb.

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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 Ponape Island, and 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 392d Bomb Squadron moved from Apamama to Kwajalein. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of the 27th Bomb Squadron moved from Makin to Kwajalein. (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 Emidj from 8,100 to 8,900 feet. Bombs were dropped on lead airplane and all fell short of targets, although only 36 went in the water. Hits were scored on AA position near radio station. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return dropped 132 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,000 to 9,500 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 MALOELAP-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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27-28 Mar. 44 (contd) 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 10,000 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-MALOELAP-WOTJE - 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 Taroa from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. One dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. SAPs on Wotje from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA at Wotje or Mille. Meager and inaccurate AA at Taroa. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distances flown: 652-1, 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 Pakin from 200 feet, then strafed Ujelang with five rounds of 75-mm. and 300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Meager SA 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 Emidj from 9,500 to 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on or near target. AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. The airplanes landed at Apamama. Distance flown: 1,040 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 1 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT - One B-24 of Headquarters VII Bomber Command, piloted by Brig. Gen. T. H. Landon, in mission from Tarawa dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jabor from 9,200 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Bombardment Mission Report, 28 Mar. 44.)

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

28-29 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 as

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28-29 Mar. 44 (contd) follows: 162 x 100-lb. GPs and five flares on Moen from 10,500 feet; 30 x 100-lb. GPs on Udot from 12,000 feet; 110 x 100-lb. GPs and five flares on Eten from 9,500 to 11,000 feet; 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Dublon from 9,400 to 10,000 feet; 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Uman from 11,500 to 12,000 feet; and 50 x 100-lb. GPs and five flares on Mesegon 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 large fire visible on Moen 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 195, 29 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOELAP - 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 Taroa from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways, and fired five rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount 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-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight strike 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 overshot because of delayed action of lead plane, but hangar was destroyed and stores area was hit. Four dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. SAPs on Ainsman from 8,200 feet, 100 per cent in radio station area. AA meager and inaccurate. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return, eight dropped 39 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroa from 8,500 to 8,700 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 Taroa 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 717 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 202-A, 10 Apr. 44.)

MILLE-MALOELAP - Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 10,000 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. They rearmed at Majuro, and on return dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroa from 9,950 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 415 statute miles; second strike, 380 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 exc[redacted] of the 100-pounders

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29 Mar. 44 (contd) hitting target area. No AA. Airplanes landed at Apamama 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 F4U'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 24 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 statute 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 4 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Taroa from 8,200 to 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs 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. GPs on Emidj from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with hits on AA positions and radio station area. Results were largely undetermined. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 635 to 770 statute miles; second strike, 550 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 203, 10 Apr. 44.)

30 Mar. 44 TRUK - Twenty-one B-24's of 27th and 98th Bomb Squadrons in night mission against Truk from Kwajalein and Eniwetok. One was abortive because of mechanical malfunctioning. All airplanes 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 Fefan, 100 per cent on target; and 30 on Ponape, 50 per cent on target.

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30 Mar. 44 (contd) The 98th Squadron, bombing from 10,000 feet, dropped 280 on Dublon seaplane base, 100 per cent on target; 40 on Uman, results unobserved; and 40 on Moen, 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 WOTJE-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. GPs on Mille 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-MALOELAP - 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 Tiniet from 8,500 to 10,500 feet. Only a few hits were scored, although these started fires. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 47 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroa from 8,500 to 10,400 feet, and 11 x 500-lb. GPs on Tiniet from 10,000 feet. Hits were observed on Taroa 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 Eniwetok. One was abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Seventeen dropped 680 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Moen 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. GPs on Dublon from 8,500 to 10,500 feet, 88 on seaplane base and 28 on town. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs 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.-1 Apr. 44 PONAPE - Eleven B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by 16 Marine F4U's, in daylight mission against Ponape from Engebi dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs from

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31 Mar. - 1 Apr. 44 (contd)

9,000 to 9,700 feet, 100 per cent on Ponape Town and old airfield. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 940 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report 47-4, 11 Apr. 44.)

MALOELAP-JALUIT - Thirteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron and three of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apamama. One was abortive because of fuel leak. Fifteen dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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 Emidj from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent on or near targets. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 570 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 205, 7 Apr. 44.)

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1 Apr. 44 — PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight low-level bombing and strafing mission over Ponape. They dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 24 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 accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 940 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report 47-5, 11 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - Nineteen 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 10,900 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 Ponape with 6 x 500-lb. bombs. Maximum distance flown: 2,630 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 198, 3 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein. (History of 431st Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

1-2 Apr. 44 — MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron assigned to shuttle mission over Maloelap 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 Taroa from 8,000 to 8,500 feet. The airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return to Tarawa dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,000 to 9,500 feet. AA from both places meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 835 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 431st Bomb Squadrons in night missions against Truk from Eniwetok dropped 144 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. An additional B-24 dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 10,500 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: Eniwetok to Truk, 1,530 statute miles; Kwajalein to Truk, 2,266 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 199, 12 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 98th Bomb Squadron and air echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44; History of 431st Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

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2-3 Apr. 44 — JALUIT-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th 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 Emidj from 9,500 to 9,700 feet, with 52 hitting land, destroying a bridge and probably destroying a large building and gun position. Seven B-25's rearmed at Majuro, and on return trip dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, with hits on gun position and runway. AA at Jaluit meager and inaccurate, and at Maloelap, meager 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 — TRUK - 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 Dublon Island, and the remainder in the water or unobserved. AA and AW meager 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-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,530 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 200, 13 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron attacked old and new runways at Ponape, dropping 36 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters, 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs, in addition to firing 58 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.)

MALOELAP - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloelap dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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.)

3-4 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 300 to 500 feet with a total of 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs, and 36 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters. In addition 30 x 75-mm. cannon shells were fired and 5,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition were expended strafing. Large fires were started. AA from guns meager and inaccurate, but from AW 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-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 48th 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

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3-4 Apr. 44 (contd) on Ainemam Island from 10,000 foot, with hits around radio tower; and eight dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,500 to 11,000 feet, with 38 hitting island, results undetermined. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro, and on return to Apamama dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarea 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 AW at Jaluit meager and inaccurate. AA at Maloelap meager to moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distances flown: first strike, 600 statute miles; second strike, 700 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 208, 9 Apr. 44.)

4 Apr. 44 TRUK - 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 Moen from 9,000 to 12,500 feet, 98 per cent on targets. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 11,200 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA and AW at Truk varied from meager to intense, but was 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 last seen over target, did not return. No AA or interception at Ponape. Distance flown: 2,278 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 201, 10 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine F4U's, in second attack on Ponape, dropping 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 500 to 600 feet. In addition, they expended 68 rounds of .75-mm. cannon and 9,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Fires were started. Moderate and accurate AA caused minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-133, 16 Apr. 44.)

4-5 Apr. 44 JALUIT-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 68 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 24 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters on Jabor Island (Jaluit) from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, setting large explosion and several fires. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro. On the return trip, 11 of them dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarea (Maloelap) from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, and one dropped four 500-lb. GPs on Millo from 8,000 feet. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 534 statute miles; second strike, 654 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-131, M-132, 14 Apr. 44.)

5 Apr. 44 Ground echelon of 11th Bomb Group arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Tarawa on 23 March 1944. (History of 11th Bomb Group, Apr. 44.)

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5-6 Apr. 44 — MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs and 108 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,300 to 10,600 feet, causing large fires. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro. On the return trip, 11 B-25's dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,800 to 10,500 feet. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 645 statute miles; second strike, 595 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-134, M-135, 13 Apr. 44.)

6 Apr. 44 — WAKE - Eleven B-24's of the 27th Bomb Squadron and 12 of the 392d attacked Wake from Kwajalein. Three airplanes were abortive. The remainder dropped 162 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wake Island and 18 x 500-lb. GPs on Peale Island from 10,500 to 14,500 feet. Hits were scored on runways and dispersal areas on Wake and in seaplane base on Peale. No AA and no interception. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-209, 10 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Ponape from 500 feet, and in addition fired 72 rounds of 75-mm. cannon and 10,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Smoke from fires was visible for 15 miles at 200 feet. Meager and accurate AA caused minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 760 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-136, 16 Apr. 44.)

6-7 Apr. 44 — JALUIT-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of the 48th 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. GPs 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 airplanes landed at Majuro and on the return to Apamama dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa, 100 per cent hits. Moderate and accurate AA caused minor damage to one B-25. Distances flown: first strike, 811 statute miles; second strike, 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-138, 12 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Eight B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 500 to 10,500 feet. Forty-three rounds of 75-mm. cannon and 6,100 rounds of .50-cal. machine gun ammunition were expended. Damage was undetermined. Meager and inaccurate SA and AW caused minor damage to one airplane. Distances flown: 750 to 800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-139, 16 Apr. 44.)

7-8 Apr. 44 — MALOELAP-JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 130 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with all but 12 hitting on or near target. Meager and accurate AA caused minor damage to one airplane and moderate damage to two

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7-8 Apr. 44 (contd) airplanes. All B-25's rearmed at Majuro. On the return trip, eight B-25's dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 30 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Emidj and Jabor from 7,800 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. GPs on Oruluk from 5,000 feet; one dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on old airfield at Ponape from 10,000 feet; one dropped three 500-lb. GPs on radio station at Ujelang and returned nine to base; one, because of delayed take-off, bombed Moen airstrip two hours after the main action with 12 x 500-lb. GPs from 8,000 feet; and four airplanes jettisoned 48 x 500-lb. GPs. There was no interception and AA caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,530 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-210, 17 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Four B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine F4U's, dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape 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 Apr. 44 MALOELAP-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 rearmed at Majuro. Of these, six dropped 22 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj from 9,900 feet in two flights and five dropped 20 x 500-lb. GPs 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.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by 8 Marine F4U's, 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 Jokaj Peninsula from 500 feet, starting many fires. They expended 60 rounds of 75-mm. and 5,400 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.)

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9 Apr. 44 (contd) MALOELAP-WOTJE-[illegible]ME - Three B-24's of [illegible]d Bomb Squadron made photo reconnaissance of Ormed, Wotje, 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 H-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 Tiniet from 11,000 feet, and strafed with 1,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; nine dropped 36 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj from 9,500 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 rearmed 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.)

MALOELAP - One 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.)

10 Apr. 44 TRUK - Twenty-three B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk from 9,500 to 14,000 feet with 230 x 500-lb. GP bombs--100 fell on Dublon, 50 on Moen airstrip, 20 on Param, 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 H-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 airstrip, 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 per cent in target areas on old airfield and fired 5,000 rounds of .50-cal. and 18 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.)

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10-11 Apr. 44 — MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th 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. GPs from 7,200 feet, 75 per cent in target area, causing two explosions; and nine bombed Emidj in two flights with 36 x 500-lb. GPs 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. Distances 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-25's 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 9,500 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, AW, 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-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th 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. GPs 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. GPs from 9,700 feet, 96 per cent in target, damaging installations and gun positions. Runways reported inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances 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 Minto 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 — MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's 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. GPs on Emidj and dock and warehouse area on Jabor, 100 per cent in target. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. Distances flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 430 to 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-155, 17 Apr. 44.)

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13 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 M-24 photo-flash bombs on Moen, Udot, Fefan, Dublon, Eten, Param, Uman, and undetermined islands from 6,000 to 16,000 feet. Explosions and fires observed on Moen and Param. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Ponape from 8,000 feet, results unobserved. AA at Truk 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 47th 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 M-160, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron bombed Ponape with 24 x 500-lb. GPs from 300 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 M-157, 21 Apr. 44.)

13-14 Apr. 44 — JALUIT-MALOELAP - 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 rearmed at Majuro and on return to Tarawa 11 dropped 122 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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 Millo from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. The aircraft expended 300 rounds of .50-cal. and four rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 534 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-158, M-159, 17 Apr. 44.)

14 Apr. 44 — JALUIT - One B-24 of Hq. VII Bomber Command, enroute from Kwajalein 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 Mullinix undamaged. Distance flown: 628 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 17 Apr. 44.)

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14 Apr. 44 (contd) ENEMY ACTION - An estimated force of 12 enemy bombers attacked Eniwetok 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.)

14-15 Apr. 44 JALUIT-MALOELAP - 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. GPs 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. GPs 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 rearmed 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. GPs on Mille from 10,500 feet. Results were unobserved. AA at Taroa meager and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. Distances 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 Eniwetok. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on old airfield from 9,300 feet, starting fires. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on new airfield from 9,700 feet. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on small oiler and two armed coastal escorts 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. GPs from 200 to 400 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 set afire. One airplane remained at a point 25 miles southwest of Eniwetok to direct rescue of downed fighter pilot. AA at Ponape meager and inaccurate. AW and SA 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 163, 23 Apr. 44.)

15 Apr. 44 Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale relinquished command of the Seventh Air Force and Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., assumed command. General Hale became Com-Air-Forward with responsibility for the employment of all land based aircraft in the forward area, CPA. (GO 10 and 11, 7 AF, 15 Apr. 44.)

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15-16 Apr. 44 — MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron bombed Taroa from 7,500 to 9,100 feet with 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent in target area, starting a large fire. AA meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro. On the return flight, three B-25's hit Enidj with 11 x 500-lb. GPs from 8,700 feet, 21 per cent in target area. Because of the weather over Jaluit, the other nine airplanes hit Mille with 36 x 500-lb. GPs from 8,700 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate at both places, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 647 statute miles; second strike, 616 statute miles. (F/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 Moen, 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. GPs on Minto 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 feet. 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 meager and inaccurate. 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. (F/E VII B C Mission Report M-214, 27 Apr. 44.)

16-17 Apr. 44 — MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Apamama hit Taroa with 12 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 90 per cent in target area. AA meager and caused no damage. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro and hit Jaluit with 48 x 500-lb. GPs 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. (F/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 Taroa from 8,100 to 10,000 feet. All of the bombs landed in ocean offshore. AA from guns meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro and on return flight hit Mille with 24 x 1,000-lb. GPs 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

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9,000 feet. AA fixed guns moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Millo 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 Reports M-173, M-174, 23 Apr. 44.)

18 Apr. 44 SAIPAN - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned to escort five VD3 PB4Y photo planes in reconnaissance mission over Saipan, Tinian, and Agrihan from Eniwetok. Five B-24's were abortive. Five dropped 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Saipan, from 18,200 to 20,000 feet, with results unobserved. The airplanes were intercepted by 16 to 20 Zekes, Hamps, and Tonys, 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 crash-landed in water. The crew was picked up by a destroyer 22 April. Distance flown: 2,930 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-217, 24 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok 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 Moegon, 40 on Moen, 80 on Dublon, and 40 on an undetermined island. Specific results undetermined because of darkness. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. demolition bombs on Fayu (Hall Islands) from 10,300 feet, 100 per cent on island. No AA. Only one searchlight seen, and it was unable to pierce clouds. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-216, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th 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 M-172, 20 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - 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. GPs as follows: one on new airfield, one on old airfield, six on shipping, and one on dock at Pakin Atoll. In addition 34 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 M-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.

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18-19 Apr. 44 (contd) AA from guns intense and accurate. Later in the day, one B-24 of 98th Bomb Squadron on a special shipping search mission dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on fuel storage area on Peale Island from 11,700 foot, 100 per cent in target area. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 2,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-216A, 21 Apr. 44, and Special Mission, 23 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,000 feet, 80 per cent in target. AA meager and caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro, 11 rearmed and bombed Taroa with 44 x 500-lb. GPs from 9,500 foot, 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 BC Mission Reports M-170, M-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 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 108 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Dublon and Moen from 8,500 to 16,000 foot, 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 foot, causing fires and explosions. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 2,348 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-215, 25 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th 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 foot, 100 per cent in target areas. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 995 to 1,088 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-178, 22 Apr. 44.)

19-20 Apr. 44 JALUIT-MALOELAP - Fourteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron bombed Emidj from 10,000 foot with 56 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 88 per cent on target. Meager AA caused minor damage to one airplane. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro and on return flight dropped 56 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa 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 BC Mission Reports M-176, M-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 Peale Island, 78 per

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20 Apr. 44 (contd) cent in target area, and 36 of same type on Wake Island, 90 per cent in target area. Bombing altitude from 10,000 to 14,000 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 MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on AA battery on Taroa 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 24 x 1,000-lb. GPs on AA battery on Emidj, 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 M-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 66 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 Eniwetok to bomb Truk from 10,000 to 12,000 feet with 240 x 100-lb. demolition bombs: 116 on runway and dispersal area on Moen, 40 in seaplane hangar area on Dublon, 40 on Tol, 14 in harbor, and 40 jettisoned because of rack failure. Fires were started on Moen 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 Engebi hit Ponape with 24 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 at Ponape with 8 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, 868 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 Apamama on 20 April. (History of 47th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

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21-22 Apr. 44 — JALUIT-MALOELAP - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Apamama bombed Emidj and Taroa enroute to Majuro. Eight hit Emidj 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 rearmed 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 Emidj 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 M-182, M-183, 3 May 44.)

22 Apr. 44 — WOTJE - 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, rearmed, 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.)

WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 38th 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 12,300 feet, 80 per cent on island. One each dropped 6 x 500-lb. GPs on Goat Island and on Ormed, with results unobserved. No AA. Distance flown: 1,094 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-227, 25 Apr. 44.)

22-23 Apr. 44 — JALUIT-MALOELAP-MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit, Maloelap, and Mille. Six dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,000 feet, 33 per cent in the target. Three 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 Emidj meager and inaccurate, and at Taroa moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. All aircraft rearmed at 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 Emidj and Mille from 7,500 and 8,000 feet, 67 and 100 per cent in targets, respectively. AA at Emidj 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 M-185, M-186, 13 May 44.)

23 Apr. 44 — TRUK - Nineteen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons at Kwajalein staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk with 760 MK I fragmentation clusters from 8,000 to [illegible] feet: 240 on

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23 Apr. 44 (contd) Eten airfield, 85 per cent in target; 280 on Moen airfield, 90 per cent in target; 40 on southeast part of Moen, 100 per cent hits; 160 on Param airfield, 66 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 Truk dropped 40 clusters on Pulusat 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. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Runways on both airfields reported operational. Distance flown: 890 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-187, 25 Apr. 44.)

Air echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron moved from Apamama to Makin, and air echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron moved from Tarawa to Makin. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44; History of 820th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

23-24 Apr. 44 JALUIT-MALOELAP - 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, 38 per cent on target. AA from guns meager and accurate, but caused no damage. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro, but one did not take off because of mechanical difficulty. On return flight, seven B-25's hit Taroa with 14 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. Distances 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 M-190, 26 Apr. 44.)

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24 Apr. 44 (contd) The 41st Bomb Group arrived at Makin, having departed Tarawa on 23 April 1944. Ground echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Apamama on 22 April 1944. (History of 41st Bomb Group, Apr. 44; History of 48th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

24-25 Apr. 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin bombed Emidj 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 rearmed at 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 BC Mission Reports M-191, M-192, 4 May 44.)

25 Apr. 44 WOTJE - Twelve 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. GPs from 8,500 to 10,000 feet. Neither squadron encountered AA. Distance flown: 361 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-229, 28 Apr. 44.)

GUAM - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok to escort seven VD3 FB4Y'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 M-231, 3 May 44.)

MALOELAP - Eleven 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 68 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 M-230, 29 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - Eleven 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 Param, 25 on Tol, 24 on Dublon, 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 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. fragmentation clusters and five

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25 Apr. 44 (contd) flares on Ponape from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. AW meager and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,445 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-220, 30 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi hit old and new airfields at Ponape 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. GPs on Ponape, 75 per cent in target area. AA intense but inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 875 to 975 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-193, 29 Apr., 4 May 44.)

25-26 Apr. 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - 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. SAPs) on that objective. Three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 feet, 50 per cent in the target; three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAPs on Taroa; and three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAPs on first island north of Taroa. No AA at Wotje, and only meager and inaccurate fire at Taroa. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro and on return flight nine of them dropped 108 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. SAPs on Wotje from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in magazine and other earth covered structures in central section of island. Meager AA from Emidj and none from Wotje. Distances flown: first strike, 650 statute miles; second strike, 640 to 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-194, M-195, 4 May 44.)

PONAPE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Ponape dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,900 to 10,000 feet on Langar Island, and one bomb each on Toletik, Narlap, and Lelap Islands. Large explosions observed on Langar Island. Undetermined number of rounds of .50-cal. ammunition used in strafing buildings on Ant and Pakin Islands. AA intense and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 845 to 890 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-196, 30 Apr. 44.)

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

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

26-27 Apr. 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin over Jaluit in three flights, dropping 144 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Enybor Islet from 8,200 to 10,000 feet, 33 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip all of them bombed Wotje in three flights from 9,000 to 10,000 feet with 44 x 500-lb. GPs, 67 per cent in target. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 400 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-197, M-198, 4 May 44.)

27 Apr. 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. incendiary clusters on Dublon from 9,000 to 14,000 feet, with 61 of the former and 62 of the latter falling on Dublon Town. Two dropped 22 x 500-lb. GPs on Moen from 11,500 to 14,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Two dropped 12 x 500-lb. incendiaries and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Eten from 13,000 feet, 75 per cent in hangar and shop area. One dropped 11 x 500-lb. GPs on Param from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. Two dropped 24 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Ponape from 8,000 to 9,500 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: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-221, 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 Ponape from 10,500 feet, with eight 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 Engebi dropped 72 x 100-lb. bombs from 10,000 feet on old and new airfields at Ponape, 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 1944. (History of 820th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

27-28 Apr. 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - 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 [illegible] hit barracks area on

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27-28 Apr. 44 (contd)

Emidj, and 66 went in the water. AA meager and inaccurate. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kotjo 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 10,200 feet, 100 per cent on the 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 Apr. 44

JALUIT-MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 144 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Enybor 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 Mille from 8,000 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA meager and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances 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 bombs on Emidj from 9,500 feet, 83 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate. Airplane rearmed at Makin and on return to Kwajalein dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Jabor and Enybor, 100 per cent on targets. No AA. Distance flown: 527 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 1 May 44.)

29 Apr. 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 400 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters--160 on Eten, 80 on Param, 80 on Moen, 40 on Tol, and remainder unobserved. Aircraft of 38th Squadron dropped 295 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters--150 on Eten, 110 on Moen, 30 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 Emidj 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-234, [illegible] 44.)

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29 Apr. 44 (contd) PONAPE - Five 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: 850 to 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-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 M-208, 2 Mar. 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 Enybor from 7,800 to 8,700 feet, 50 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 M-207, 5 May 44.)

30 Apr. 44 WAKE - Forty-two B-24's of 11th and 30th Bomb Groups, all based at Kwajalein and all carrying 500-lb. GP bombs, in mission against Wake. Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron dropped 108 bombs from 10,500 to 11,800 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 Peacock 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 98th dropped 79 bombs on Heel Point and Wilkes Island from 12,400 to 15,500 feet, 80 per cent in target area; and one airplane of Headquarters VII Bomber Command dropped nine 500-lb. bombs on Peacock 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 M-233, 7 May 44.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin, over Enybor in four flights, dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 50 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 M-210, 8 May 44.)

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30 Apr. 44 (contd) PONAPE - Eight [redacted]-25 [redacted] on at Engebi bombed old and new airfields at Ponape 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/E VII BC Mission Report M-211, 3 May 44.)

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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 Emidj from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Enybor from 7,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GPs on Kabbenbock from 7,500 feet, 83 per cent on target. AA from Emidj meager and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 578 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-212, 8 May 44.)

2 May 44 TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th 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: 31 on Moen airfield with 85 per cent hits, 24 on Eten airfield with 90 per cent hits, and six on Eten or Dublon with 50 per cent hits. Eight aircraft of the 38th dropped 40 x 1,000-lb. GPs from 10,000 to 12,500 feet: 20 on Moen with 75 per cent hits, 10 on Eten with 75 per cent hits, five on Dublon, and five on an island thought to be Fefan. AA from meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Eight to 10 searchlights in action. Two night-fighters were airborne. One B-24 received minor damage. One B-24 of the 431st Squadron, because of the illness of the co-pilot, bombed Ponape from 10,000 feet with 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs, causing a large fire in the town area. No AA or searchlights. Distance flown: 1,500 to 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-235, 6 May 44.)

2-3 May 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - 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. SAP bombs on radio station at Aineman Island, 70 per cent in target area. No AA. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje 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. Distances flown: first strike, 420 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-213, M-216, 8 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi bombed Ponape 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 caused no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-214, 5 May 44.)

3 May 44 WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Wotje from Kwajalein. One abortive because of oil leak. Seven dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 to 11,500 feet, 62 on island and 22 in water. Building at

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3 May 44 (contd) south end of taxi strip was blown up. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on first island north of Wotje from 8,500 feet, 50 per cent hitting land. No AA. Distance flown: 350 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-239, 6 May 44.)

3-4 May 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. bombs on Emidj from 9,000 feet, with 100 per cent hits. AA meager and caused no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro. On return trip they bombed Wotje in four flights with 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,500 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-215, M-218, 8 May 44.)

4-5 May 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Emidj 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. AW meager and inaccurate to accurate, causing slight damage to one B-25. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return to Makin dropped 48 x 500-lb. GPs on Wotje from 8,000 to 8,800 feet, 66 per cent in target area. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 425 statute miles; second strike, 770 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-220, M-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 Not 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 dropped 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. AW meager and inaccurate. One B-24 received minor damage, and one B-24 of the 98th was not heard from again after taking off late from Eniwetok. Distance flown: 1,100 to 1,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-236, 11 May 44.)

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Ten dropped 60 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 13,500 feet, with bombs falling on Eten, Param, Dublon, Moen, and Tol. 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-237, 10 May 44.)

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5 May 44 (contd) PONAPE - Eight B-2[redacted] dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs on old and new airfields at Ponape from 10,000 to 10,500 feet, 40 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 844 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-219, 8 May 44.)

5-6 May 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 40 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet on magazines and earth covered structures in central portion of Emidj, 65 per cent in target. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. All aircraft rearmed at Majuro and on return trip bombed Wotje with 20 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs from 8,600 to 10,000 feet, 50 per cent on coastal defense guns on northeast shore. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 450 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-222, M-223, 11 May 44.)

6 May 44 WOTJE - Thirteen B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 100 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,000 feet, 95 per cent on island. AA and AW meager and inaccurate. One other airplane jettisoned bombs because of mechanical trouble and returned abortive. Distance flown: 361 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-241, 10 May 44.)

6-7 M 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 100-lb. GP bombs on Guam from 20,000 foot, with hits observed on Orote and Agana airfields and Sumay Town. AA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by 12 to 30 Zekes and Oscars just after completion of photo-bomb run, with approximately 50 passes being made in 40-minute running fight, and approximately eight aerial bombs were dropped. Three Zekes and one Oscar were destroyed, one Zeke was probably destroyed, and four Zekes and two Oscars were damaged. Two B-24's received minor damage. All B-24's landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,725 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-240, 16 May 44.)

WOTJE-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on magazine area at Wotje from 9,000 feet, 62 per cent in target. No AA. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip 11 of them dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 16 x 1,000-lb. SAPs on RDF station at Enybor, 30 per cent in target, getting three direct hits on southernmost installations. One B-25 abortive because of malfunctions 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.

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7 May 44 (contd) Fourteen dropped [redacted] clusters on Truk from 10,000 to 15,000 feet, hitting as follows: 159 on Moen, 80 on Eten, 80 on Param, 42 on an unidentified island, and remainder unobserved. Five B-24's dropped 94 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on Ponape from 11,000 to 14,500 feet, with results unobserved. AA from Truk meager and inaccurate. No AA from Ponape. Searchlights well coordinated. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-238, 14 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,900 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent on targets. 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-WOTJE - Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on buildings north of RDF station area on Enybor, from 8,900 to 9,600 feet. Six other B-25's of 48th Squadron bombed Wotje 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 rearmed at Majuro. On return trip six B-25's hit Wotje 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 Enybor, from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 63 per cent hits. No AA from either place. Distances flown: first strike, 430 to 660 statute miles; second strike, 430 to 660 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-227, M-228, 13 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,700 to 10,500 feet, with hits in building area on Langar Island, and on runways of old and new airfields on Ponape Island. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 840 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-229, 11 May 44.)

8 May 44 PONAPE - 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: 943 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-232, 12 May 44.)

8-9 May 44 JALUIT-WOTJE - Ten B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 19 x 1,000-lb. bombs in heavy AA battery area on northeast section of Emidj from 10,000 feet, 21 per cent in target area. AA meager and caused no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip nine dropped 98 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. Distances flown: first strike, 411 to 461 statute miles; second strike, 665 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-230, M-231, 13 May 44.)

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9 May 44 — TRUK - Sixteen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged through Eniwetok 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 Moen, Eten, and Parem. Other hits were scored on Dublon, Udot, Ulalu, and a destroyer anchored near Moen. One B-24 dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Ponape from 10,000 feet, with hits in waterfront area; and one dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Oroluk Island from 10,000 feet. AA at Truk meager and inaccurate. No AA at Ponape or Oroluk. Three enemy aircraft observed over Truk, but there was no interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,406 to 2,452 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-242, 15 May 44.)

PONAPE - Ten B-24's of 26th and 431st Bomb Squadrons returning from Los Negros hit Ponape from 10,500 to 15,500 feet with 220 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 198 bombs hitting in target areas. AA moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two B-24's were slightly damaged. Distance flown: 1,925 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-244, 13 May 44.)

9-10 May 44 — WOTJE-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. bombs on Wotje from 8,000 feet, 75 per cent on or near target. No AA. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. SAPs in heavy AA battery area on north section of Emidj from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 34 per cent in target area. A raft 40 feet square was strafed with .50-cal. and 75-mm. ammunition. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 625 statute miles; second strike, 425 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-233, M-234, 12 May 44.)

10 May 44 — WAKE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 120 x 100-lb. bombs on Wake from 11,500 feet, results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,580 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-247, 14 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 22 in target. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 1,000 to 1,151 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-235, 12 May 44.)

SHIPPING - Three B-25's based at Engebi searched for shipping reported at Ponape with negative results. No bombs were dropped at Ponape because of adverse weather conditions. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 10 May 44.)

10-11 May 44 — JALUIT-WOTJE - Seven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 84 x 100-lb. bombs on Emidj from 9,500 feet, 40 per cent

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10-11 May 44 (contd) buildings on southern tip of Island and remainder on seaplane ramps and pier. AA meager, causing no damage. Seven other 48th Bomb Squadron B-25's hit Wotje with 28 x 500-lb. GPs from 9,000 feet, 85 per cent among buildings in north central section. No AA. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro. On return trip seven B-25's dropped 28 x 500-lb. GPs on buildings on south half of Emidj from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with 75 per cent hits; and seven dropped 78 x 100-lb. GPs on Wotje from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 100 per cent in buildings in North Central section. No AA at Wotje and only meager and inaccurate AA at Emidj. Distances flown: first strike, 425 to 650 statute miles; second strike, 425 to 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-236, M-237, 15 May 44.)

11 May 44 TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Eight dropped 23 x 1,000-lb. and 11 x 2,000-lb. GP bombs on Moen from 10,500 to 12,000 feet, and four dropped 18 x 1,000-lb. and 3 x 2,000-lb. bombs on Eten from 11,000 to 12,500 feet. Six dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 12 x 2,000-lb. GPs on Faram from 10,000 to 13,000 feet. One dropped 3 x 2,000-lb. GPs on Uman from 11,000 feet. Three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GPs each on Dublon, Udot, and Ponape. All but six of the bombs fell on or near their target areas. AA at Truk meager 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: 2,397 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-243, 16 May 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 92 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, approximately 33 per cent in target area. AA meager and accurate to inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 615 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-239, 16 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 10 x 1,000-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 10,500 feet, with results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 1,000 to 1,325 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-238, 13 May 44.)

11-12 May 44 PONAPE - Six B-25's of 820th 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 M-240, 15 May 44.)

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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: 1,880 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-245, 16 May 44.)

12-13 May 44 — NAURU - Twelve B-25's of 47th and 11 of 48th Bomb Squadrons at Makin dropped 180 x 100-lb. and 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Nauru 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 airplanes. One airplane of each squadron was abortive. Distance flown: 965 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-241, 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 18 x 2,000-lb., 48 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, and 20 x 48-lb. photo bombs from 7,500 to 15,000 feet. Of the 1,000 pounders, 18 fell on Moen, six on Param, six on Eten, six on Moeogen, six on an unidentified island, and six on island and reef near Northeast Pass. Nine of the 2,000-lb. bombs fell on Moen airstrip, six on Param airstrip, two on Eten, and one on Dublon. Night photos were taken of Tol and Udot. Searchlights ineffective, AA meager and inaccurate. Three fighters observed airborne. None of the B-24's was damaged. Three B-24's dropped six 1,000-lb. and six 2,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,800 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on targets. No AA or searchlights. Distance flown: 1,652 to 2,404 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-246, 18 May 44.)

MALOELAP - Six B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 72 x 500-lb. demolition bombs on Taroa from 10,000 feet, 82 per cent in target. No AA. No activity was observed. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-255, 19 May 44.)

JALUIT - One B-24 of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jabor from 10,000 feet, with no hits observed. AA meager and inaccurate. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 13 May 44.)

13-14 May 44 — PONAPE - Eight B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,500 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 BC Mission Report M-242, 16 May 44.)

14-15 May 44 — 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

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14-15 May 44 (contd) Headquarters 11th [illegible] group, in daylight mission against Jaluit from Kwajalein. Fifty-three dropped 28 x 2,000-lb., 540 x 500-lb., and 40 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 1,500 to 10,000 feet, with 49 per cent hitting assigned targets, and 30 additional 500-lb. bombs hitting areas outside of targets on Jaluit Atoll. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500 lb. GPs on alternate target of Mille from 9,500 feet. AA and AW meager and inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 464 to 634 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-250, 19 May 44.)

JALUIT - Forty-three B-25's of 41st Bomb 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 10,800 feet as follows: 20 on Ainaman, 20 on Jabor, 16 on South Point area, 48 on Enibuas and Agidyen, 52 on Emidj, and 16 in the water. Installations were strafed with 46,730 rounds of .50-cal. and 217 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition from 25 to 400 feet. AW meager 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 Navy aircraft were over Jaluit: 24 F6F's, 95 F4U's, and 60 SBD's. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 May 44.)

WOTJE-MALOELAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Wotje and Maloelap from 10,000 feet. AA at Maloelap meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-1, 24 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. AW meager 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 392d Bomb Squadron and 11 of 27th Bomb Squadron based on Kwajalein in mission against Wake. Airplanes of 392d dropped 480 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. GPs on Wilkes 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 M-251, 21 May 44.)

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NAURU - Ten B-25's of 390th Bomb Squadron and two of 820th at Makin dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Nauru from 8,400 to 11,500 feet, 63 per cent hitting on power plant, AA positions, dispersal areas, and runway. AA moderate to intense and accurate, damaging four B-25's slightly. Two additional B-24's were abortive. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-244, 22 May 44.)

WOTJE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Wotje from 10,000 feet. One inaccurate burst of AA caused no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-4, 23 May 44.)

MILLE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Mille from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. No AA or intercaption. Distance flown: 658 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-5, 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 interception. Distance flown: 765 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-6, 23 May 44.)

17 May 44 — PONAPE - 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 area of Ponape from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in airfield target areas, with dock area hits unobserved. New airfield appeared operational. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 925 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-245, 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 240 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 66 per cent of the 500s hitting Peale Island and 80 per cent of the 100s on Wake Island. AA intense and accurate, destroying one B-24 and damaging two others. Three B-24's jettisoned 120 x 100-lb. GP bombs because they were forced off the bomb run. Two 500-pounders were jettisoned enroute. Distance flown: 1,465 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-252, 21 May 44.)

PONAPE - Five B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi bombed Jokaj Island and new airfield on Ponape with 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,100 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA. Distance flown: 912 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-246, 22 May 44.)

18-19 May 44 — MALOELAP - Eleven B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin bombed Taroa from 9,000 feet with [illegible] lb. GP bombs,

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18-19 May 44 (contd) 66 per cent hitti[illegible] battery on Northeast tip. AA meager but accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Airplanes rearmed at Majuro and with a 12th added, returned to Taroa in four flights to drop 48 x 500-lb. GPs from 8,200 to 9,700 foot on heavy AA battery on southeast shore, with 60 per cent hits. One flight reported AA from guns meager and accurate, but other flights reported no AA. None of the airplanes was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 520 statute miles; second strike, 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-247, 23 May 44.)

19 May 44 PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Engebi over Ponape in three flights to drop 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 foot on new airstrip, with an estimated 100 per cent hits. AA meager and accurate. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-249, 22 May 44.)

MALOELAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Maloelap from 9,500 to 13,600 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 465 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-7, 23 May 44.)

MILLE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Mille from 10,000 foot. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 546 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-8, 23 May 44.)

20 May 44 NAUEU - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin over Nauru in four flights dropped 144 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,300 to 10,500 feet, with 92 per cent hitting power plant and phosphate plant. AA moderate to intense and accurate, causing minor damage to four B-25's. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-248, 23 May 44.)

MALOELAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Maloelap from Kwajalein from 10,000 foot. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-9, 23 May 44.)

JALUIT - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 460 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-10, 23 May 44.)

JALUIT - Another F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Jaluit from 10,000 foot. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 460 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-11, 23 May 44.)

21 May 44 WOTJE - Fifty-five B-24's, including 12 of 27th Bomb Squadron, 11 of 392d, 10 of 38th, 11 of 431st, nine of 28th, and two of

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21 May 44 (contd) Headquarters 11th Bomb Group, in daylight attack against Wotje from Kwajalein. 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 the southern part of Wotje Island. Fifty per cent of the 2,000-lb. GPs hit Toton Island, and 55 per cent of the 100-lb. GPs hit on small islands of Wotje Atoll. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 304 to 402 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-254, 30 May 44.)

WOTJE - Forty-one B-25's of 41st Bomb Group, including 14 of 47th Bomb Squadron, 12 of 396th Bomb Squadron, and 15 of 820th Bomb Squadron, in daylight attack on Wotje from Makin. They dropped a total of 492 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 1,000 to 4,800 feet on Ormed and small islets of Wotje Atoll, getting hits on all islets attacked although the damage resulting from bombing was undetermined. In addition they conducted a low-level strafing and cannonading attack expending 196 rounds of 75-mm. and 48,727 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. It was estimated that 71.5 per cent of the 75-mm. shells hit islands. AW meager and inaccurate to accurate. Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-250, 30 May 44.)

21-22 May 44 ROTA - Nine B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok to escort four Navy PB4Y 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 were damaged. All landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,730 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-248, 31 May 44.)

22-23 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 500-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj Island from 8,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown: 965 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-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 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 8,000 feet, 35 per cent hitting AA positions on north tip of Emidj and 50 per cent hitting Tiniet. AA meager, accurate to inaccurate. Three airplanes returned to Makin and nine landed at Majuro, rearmed and returned to Jaluit to drop 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 7,200 to 8,000 feet on heavy AA battery northeast of building area on Enybor, 40 per cent in target area. No AA. Distance flown: 425 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-252, 29 May 44.)

24 May 44 PONAPE - Three B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, returning to Eniwetok from Los Negros, dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island with 39 hits observed, and 20 x 100-lb. GPs on industrial plant at Matalanim, with no hits observed. AW meager and caused no damage. Five other B-24's flew direct to Eniwetok without dropping any bombs. Distance flown: 1,806 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-249, 2 June 44.)

24-25 May 44 WOTJE-JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 44 x 500-lb. bombs on Wotje from 9,000 feet. Eleven hits were observed in the heavy AA battery area on the northeast tip of Wotje, with 12 others observed in the heavy AA battery on ocean shore southeast of southern service apron. No AA. All airplanes landed at Majuro, 10 rearmed and on return trip dropped 40 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,800 to 9,700 feet, with 65 per cent hitting targets. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 345 to 525 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-254, 29 May 44.)

PONAPE - 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 4,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 75 feet. Seven dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet. Fires were started in plantation and town areas. AA meager and inaccurate to accurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 865 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-253, 28 May 44.)

25-26 May 44 PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 48th 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. GPs 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 Ronkiti Harbor. AA meager and inaccurate. AW meager and accurate. One B-25, hit in engine, made crash landing in ocean. Four crew members were rescued and two were killed. Distance flown: 850 to 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-255, 1 June 44.)

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26 May 44 — WOTJE - One F-7 of 26th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Wotje from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 390 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-12, 31 May 44.)

26-27 May 44 — PAKIN - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron assigned to search and attack mission. Seven expended 4 rounds of 75-mm. and another, 950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing Pakin Atoll from 150 to 200 feet. Two strafed southern perimeter of Ponape Atoll with 1,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 300 feet. Life raft with four members of crew of lost B-25 was located and rescue effected by destroyer. AA from Pakin meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 1,000 to 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-256, 30 May 44.)

JALUIT - Forty-five B-25's of 41st Bomb Group in daylight attack on Jaluit from Makin. Thirteen of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 26 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 7,800 to 9,000 feet, 58 per cent in target area. Two of the 48th dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. GPs on AA battery on NE tip of Emidj from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Fifteen of the 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 30 x 1,000-lb. GPs from 7,000 to 8,300 feet, 27 per cent on target. Six of 396th dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Emidj from 9,000 to 9,600 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 980 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-257, 4 June 44.)

27-28 May 44 — PONAPE - Twenty-five B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups in daylight attack on Ponape from Kwajalein. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Five of 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 200 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 15,200 to 16,000 feet, 98 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 Ponape Island. Five B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron dropped 30 x 500-lb. GPs and 20 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters on Ponape Town from 10,000 to 12,200 feet, and one dropped 20 x 100-lb. GPs on Langar Island. All hit on target. Six of 396th Squadron dropped 72 x 500-lb. GPs on Ponape Town from 12,000 feet, 100 per cent hits; and five dropped 60 x 500-lb. GPs on old airfield from 11,800 to 12,500 feet, 100 per cent hits. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,335 to 1,418 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-253, 2 June 44.)

PONAPE - Fifty-four B-25's of 41st Bomb Group in daylight mission against Ponape from Eniwetok. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Twelve of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 140 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island and 4 x 100-lb. GPs on Aru Point, Ponape Island, from 7,500 to 10,000 feet, 67 per cent hits. Fourteen of 47th Squadron dropped 56 x 500-lb. GPs on Ponape Town from 6,000 to 8,600 feet, 100 per

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cent hits. Ten of 46th Squadron dropped 120 x 100-lb. GPs on Not Point from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, and three dropped 36 x 100-lb. GPs on Langar Island from 8,500 feet, 84 per cent hits. Thirteen of 396th Squadron dropped 52 x 500-lb. GPs from 9,500 to 10,000 feet on Ponape Town, 77 per cent hits. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. AW meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 911 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-258, 5 June 44.)

PONAPE - After the above two attacks had taken place, three F-7's of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein assigned to photograph Ponape. Because of cloud coverage, only one made photo runs. These were made from 10,000 feet. AA moderate and accurate; AW intense and accurate. None of the F-7's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,325 to 1,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-13, 2 June 44.)

28-29 May 44

JALUIT - Twenty-nine B-25's of 47th and 396th Bomb Squadrons dropped 48 x 1,000-lb. and 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj and Enybor from 7,700 to 10,500 feet. Twenty of the 1,000-lb. and all of the 500-lb. bombs hit Emidj, six hit Enybor, and remainder fell in lagoon. AA and AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,020 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-259, 5 June 44.)

MALOELAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Maloelap from 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 510 statut miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-14, 31 May 44.)

29 May 44

SAIPAN - Fourteen B-24's of 98th 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. Two jettisoned bombs after leaving target. AA meager and inaccurate. Interception by 10 to 12 Zekes, Hamps, Tojos, and Oscars, of which two Zekes and one Hamp were damaged. One B-24 was shot down. Remainder returned to Eniwetok. Distance flown: 3,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-258, 3 June 44.)

GUAM - Five B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 27th staged thru Eniwetok to escort Navy PB4Y photo planes over Guam, dropping 38 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 18,000 feet. Thirteen of the B-24's reported interception by two to 10 Zekes and Hamps which dropped phosphorous bombs; the other B-24 reported interception by 15 to 20 enemy fighters and running battle lasting 25 minutes, with one Zeke destroyed. AA meager to intense and accurate to inaccurate. Tail of one B-24 hit by fragment of [illegible]. There was no other

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29 May 44 (contd) damage. On completion of mission, B-24's landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,700 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-259, 6 June 44.)

MILLE - Thirteen B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 42 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,500 to 8,500 feet with all but two hitting gun positions and radar station area. Distance flown: 960 statute miles. AA meager and inaccurate. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-260, 5 June 44.)

29-30 May 44 WOTJE-MILLE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron made 10 photo runs over Wotje from 10,000 feet and 11 over Mille 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 F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-16, 1 June 44.)

30-31 May 44 PONAPE - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-lb. and 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape, hitting new airstrip, Langar Island, Mot Point, and guns on Jokaj, from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate. No damage. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-261, 4 June 44.)

PONAPE - Fourteen B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons, returning from Los Negros to Kwajalein dropped 120 x 100-lb. GP bombs on plantation area at Ponape 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. GPs on an unidentified area on Ponape. Of all the bombs dropped, 82 per cent hit in assigned target areas. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-260, 6 June 44.)

WAKE - Two F-7's of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Wake from 20,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,480 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 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 on Moen, 65 on Param, 16 on Pis Island, and remainder unobserved. Fires 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-272, 4 June 44.)

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31 May 44 (contd)

WAKE - Eighteen B-24's of the 30th Bomb Group, including 11 of the 392d Bomb Squadron, six of the 38th, and one of the 27th, in daylight mission against Wake from Kwajalein. 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 392d Squadron dropped 440 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Peacock Point from 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. GPs on Wilkes Island, 75 per cent on target. AA moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. One B-24 received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,489 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-256, 5 June 44.)

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JUNE

1 June 44 — JALUIT - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 450 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-18, 8 June 44.)

1-2 June 44 — PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Eniwetok. Four dropped 8 x 500-lb. and 24 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. GPs and 6 x 100-lb. incendiaries from 75 feet on Temara District, 100 per cent hits, and strafed entire southern perimeter of Ponape Island with 30 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Two dropped 24 x 100-lb. GPs on Langar Island from 9,000 feet, 83 per cent on target. Two dropped 24 x 100-lb. GPs on Naval Headquarters area at Ponape Town from 9,800 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA meagor and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage from 20-mm. fire and debris from exploding tower. Distance flown: 910 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-262, 8 June 44.)

2 June 44 — NAURU - Eleven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron over Nauru from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, dropping 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs, all on AA positions northwest and south of Buada Lagoon. Runways reported operational. AA intense and ranged from inaccurate to accurate. MG fire meagor and inaccurate. Two additional B-25's were abortive. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-263, 12 June 44.)

3 June 44 — TRUK - Nine B-24's 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 46 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 318 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters, and 2 x 50-lb. photo flash bombs. Approximately 85 per cent of all bombs dropped hit assigned targets on Moen, Eten, Dublon, Parem, and Losegen. AA meagor and inaccurate. Four of the B-24's were attacked by one single-engine enemy fighter each. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-261, 11 June 44.)

3-4 June 44 — NAURU - Fifteen B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Nauru from Makin. Two were abortive. Thirteen dropped 146 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,600 feet. Eight airplanes got 100 per cent hits, three got 67 per cent hits, and two got no hits. Targets were AA positions and barracks area. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,090 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-264, 10 June 44.)

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4 June 44 — TRUK - Nine 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 per cent hitting in target areas on Param, Uman, Mosegen, and Moen. Two dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Ponape from 11,000 to 13,500 feet, with 100 per cent hits on Langar Island and old airfield. AA at Truk meager to moderate, inaccurate to accurate. No AA at Ponape. One B-24 received slight damage. Distance flown: 1,740 to 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-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 foot, with bombs falling on old airfield, Tomara district, and plantation area. No AA. Distance flown: 860 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-265, 7 June 44.)

5 June 44 — NAURU - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron hit Nauru 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-266, 9 June 44.)

WOTJE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Wotje from 4,500 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-19, 5 June 44.)

JALUIT - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-20, 5 June 44.)

5-6 June 44 — GUAM - Eight B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons escorted one photo plane from the 86th 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 18,500 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-263, 12 June 44.)

6 June 44 — 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 per cent on AA positions on Jokaj Island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-267, 9 June 44.)

PONAPE - Five B-24's returning from Los Negros dropped 2 1/2-tons of bombs on Ponape, hitting both airfields, Ponape Town, and area north of Matalanim Harbor. AA meager and inaccurate. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary)

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7 June 44 — PAKIN - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, returning to Eniwetok from Los Negros, photographed Pakin from 20,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report F-23, 7 June 44.)

8 June 44 — NAURU - Twelve B-25's from 820th Bomb Squadron hit Nauru from 8,500 feet with 136 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 30 per cent hitting Yangor Town and 60 per cent hitting coastal defence guns and AA positions. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 960 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-269, 12 June 44.)

PONAPE - 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 Matalanim Harbor (Ponape) from 8,000 feet, with 75 per cent hits. AA meager 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 Report M-268, 11 June 44.)

TRUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, eight of 392d Bomb Squadron and one of 431st Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Two more 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 GPs on airfield and seaplane base at Moen, 30 GPs on Tol, and 30 frags each on Falo and an unidentified island. Four airplanes dropped 30 x 100-lb. GPs and 90 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters on Ponape from 8,500 to 12,000 feet. Sixty of the frags hit Ponape Town, and 30 fell on Langar Island. Thirty GPs hit warehouse area southwest of old airfield. AA at both Truk and Ponape meager 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 M-264, 14 June 44.)

9 June 44 — TRUK - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Six dropped 240 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 10,000 to 16,000 feet, with 120 hitting Moen and 120 falling on an unidentified island. One B-24 dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Ponape from 13,500 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: 2,445 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-265, 13 June 44.)

10 June 44 — TRUK - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night strike against Truk. One was abortive because of weather conditions. Seven dropped a total of 278 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 11,600 to 14,500 feet, with

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10 June 44 — 99 per cent hitting airfield targets on Moen, Eten, and Param. In addition to bombs, 2,100 Series No. 4 Propaganda Leaflets and seven cartons of radar confusers were dropped. Two B-24's dropped 80 x 100-lb. GPs on Ponape from 10,000 to 10,500 feet; 100 per cent on Jokaj Island gun positions and Ponape Town. AA at Truk meager to moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Ponape. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,956 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-266, 16 June 44.)

NAURU - Sixteen B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Nauru from Makin. 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 salvoed their bombs in order to assert the damaged aircraft. The damaged airplane was forced down in water about 40 miles from Nauru. All of the crew were rescued by Dumbo. AA, varying from meager to intense and inaccurate to accurate, caused moderate damage to four additional B-25's. Distance flown: 1,024 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-270, 18 June 44.)

11 June 44 — TRUK - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron, scheduled to attack on 10 June but postponed because of the weather, staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. They dropped a total of 360 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 16,800 feet, with hits as follows: 100 on Param airfield, 26 on Moen, and 20 on Dublon. 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-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-266, 16 June 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj Island from 8,000 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent hits. They also dropped 2,000 propaganda leaflets, Series No. I. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-271, 14 June 44.)

12 June 44 — TRUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in 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, 30 hit Eten airfield, six hit Param airfield, six hit Tsis Island, and five on Fefan. Of the 100-pounders, 270 hit South Airfield, Moen, and remainder fell into water. They also dropped 2,700 Series No. 5 leaflets. AA meager to intense, accurate to inaccurate. Seventeen to 19 searchlights

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12 June 44 (contd) were inaccurate to accurate. Two B-24's each were intercepted by one 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.)

ANT - Two F-7's of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in missions from Eniwetok, photographed Ant Island. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-25ACEG, and P-25BDFH, 12 June 44.)

13 June 44 TRUK - Twenty-six B-24's of 11th Bomb Group staged thru Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Truk. Six of the 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 240 x 100-lb. GP bombs on North Moen airfield, 80 per cent hits; seven of the 431st dropped 280 x 100-lb. GPs on South Moen airfield, 90 per cent hits; six of the 26th dropped 200 x 100-pounders on North Moen airfield and 40 x 100's on Pis Island. Five B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. AA moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by 7 to 12 Zekes, one Hamp, one Tojo, and one Tony, all unaggressive. One Zeke was destroyed, two Zekes and one Hamp were probably destroyed, and two Zekes and two Tojos were damaged. One B-24 was damaged. Three Navy photo planes accompanied the mission. Two B-24's, failing to reach Truk because of oxygen trouble, dropped 80 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj Island (Ponape) from 11,500 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 18,200 feet, with 93 per cent of bombs dropped hitting airfields on Param and Moen. In addition, 6,000 Series No. 7 Propaganda leaflets were dropped. One B-24 dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Ponape from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on Jokaj Island. AA at Truk meager and inaccurate. No AA at Ponape. One single-engine fighter intercepted over Truk. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,944 to 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-269, 18 June 44.)

NAURU - Fourteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Nauru from Makin dropped 153 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 (contd) PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions at Jokaj, 100 per cent hits. AA meager 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 Saipan. (7 AF Intelligence Summary #41, 15 July 44.)

16 June 44 PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on gun positions at Jokaj from 8,500 to 9,000 feet and four 500-lb. GPs on industrial area in vicinity of Matalanim Harbor, with results unobserved. Dropped 2,000 Series No. 3 Propaganda leaflets. AA meager 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 NGATIK-PONAPE-MOKIL - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Ngatik, Ponape, and Mokil. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-26ABCE, 17 June 44.)

PINGELAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Pingelap. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-26D, 17 June 44.)

18 June 44 PONAPE - Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and two of 38th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Kwajalein dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, with hits on Ponape Town, Jokaj Island, Not Point, Langar Island and Parem Island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,405 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-273, 20 June 44.)

NAURU - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron struck Nauru with 44 x 500-lb. bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet with bombs hitting AA positions near phosphate plant and a building at boat basin. One B-24 at 1,000 feet strafed area south of power plant with 20 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Large fires were visible for 30 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-276, 22 June 44.)

NAURU - Ten B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron attacked Nauru with 40 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.)

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19 June 44 TRUK - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d Bomb Squadron with one from 38th Bomb Squadron attached staged through Eniwetok for a daylight mission against Truk. One was abortive because of mechanical failures. Fourteen dropped 163 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 4,200 Series No. 8 Propaganda leaflets on Moen Island from 10,000 to 14,500 foot. Eighty-two bombs fell on North Moen airfield, setting large fires, and the remainder were unobserved. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Ponape from 12,900 feet, 100 per cent on AA positions on Jokaj Island. One B-24 dropped 6 x 500-lb. GPs on Hall Islands, two on land and four in the water. AA at Truk meager and inaccurate. No AA at Ponape or Hall Islands. Distance flown: 2,340 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-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 358 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters from 20,000 foot--128 on Eten 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 foot--220 hitting Param airfield and 100 falling in the water. An additional B-24 was abortive, jettisoning its bombs 45 minutes from the target. Several small fires were started in revetment area at Eten, and a large fire on Param airfield was visible for 20 miles at 15,000 foot. There was no interception. AA intense and accurate to inaccurate causing minor damage to two airplanes. AA barges appeared to be in use. Distance flown: 2,417 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-271, 23 June 44.)

PONAPE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 11,000 foot, with 100 per cent hits on Jokaj Island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,311 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-274, 22 June 44.)

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 1,980 Series No. 4 Propaganda leaflets from 10,000 to 10,700 feet on Jokaj, 85 per cent of the bombs hitting near gun positions. Fires were visible for 15 miles at 9,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. New airfield appeared to be operational. Distance flown: 865 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-277, 22 June 44.)

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 1,800 Series No. 5 propaganda leaflets from 10,600 to 11,000 feet. All of the bombs hit on or near AA positions on Jokaj Island. AA and AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-278, 23 June 44.)

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20 June 44 (cont'd) Advance parties 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, June 44.)

21 June 44 TRUK - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and seven of the 38th dropped 160 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 17,000 to 20,000 feet, with 127 falling on Moen airfields. 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 38th experienced only moderate and inaccurate AA and interception 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-272, 23 June 44.)

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 392d and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission over Truk dropped 114 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 3,600 Series No. 11 Propaganda leaflets from 16,400 to 17,300 feet on Param airstrip and dispersal areas, with all but two hitting on or near target. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate to accurate, slightly damaging one airplane. Nine unaggressive fighters, including six Zekes, two Tojos, and one Hamp, intercepted, dropping phosphorous bombs, which caused minor damage to one airplane. Two B-24's because of engine trouble dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 17,000 feet, all hitting in vicinity of AA positions on Jokaj. No AA or interception. An additional B-24 jettisoned its bombs 150 miles from Truk because of engine failures. Distance flown: 2,440 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 Eniwetok for a raid on Truk. Six of the 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet on Moen, 37 of which hit airfield. An additional B-24, unable to release its bombs electrically over Moen, salvoed 10 x 500-lb. GPs over Eot while leaving target area. Two 98th Squadron B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. Eight of the 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 80 x 500-lb. GP bombs on North Moen from 20,000 feet, 24 on target. Two B-24's of the 26th were abortive because of mechanical trouble. AA meager to intense, inaccurate to accurate. Four or five aggressive Zekes and Hamps intercepted, dropping seven phosphorous bombs. One Zeke was destroyed and one was damaged. One B-24 sustained moderate damage. One B-24 of the 98th Bomb Squadron, unable to reach Truk because of supercharger trouble, dropped nine 500-lb. bombs on Ponape from 13,800 feet, with all bombs hitting target area on Jokaj Island. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-276, 25 June 44.)

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22 June 44 (contd) TINIAN - Eight P-47'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. 41 - 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 Moen from 19,000 to 21,000 feet, only eight on the target and the remainder in the water. Six of the 38th Squadron dropped 60 x 500-lb. bombs on South Moen airstrip from 20,000 to 21,000 feet, 39 on target. AA moderate 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 Jokaj Island. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-277, 26 June 44.)

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Engebi dropped 106 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 1,980 Series No. 6 Propaganda leaflets from 9,500 to 10,700 feet, with 104 falling on or near target area on Jokaj Island and two hitting Ponape Town. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-280, 26 June 44.)

INTERCEPTION - Four P-47'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. 41 - 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 PONAPE - Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and one of 38th in attack on Ponape. Two reached the target and dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj from 9,800 to 10,000 foot, all hitting island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One B-24 failed to find target and returned to Kwajalein with bombs. Distance flown: 1,032 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-281, 26 June 44.)

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24 June 44 (contd)

OROLUK-MINTO - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Oroluk and Minto in the Carolines from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-27AB, 24 June 44.)

SAIPAN-TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in six sorties over Saipan, expending 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in four sorties over Tinian, expending 3,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition strafing. Four Japanese bombers were left burning at Tinian. (Ibid.)

RESCUE - Seven P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in two escort missions for Dumbo on rescue service eight miles north of Rota. Rescue also covered by seven P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 41 - July 44.)

INTERCEPTION - Two P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron up to intercept night raiders north of Saipan, but made no contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

Thirty-three pilots of the 73d Fighter Squadron landed at Saipan from aircraft carrier. (History of 73d Fighter Squadron, June 44.)

25 June 44

SAIPAN-TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in four sorties over Saipan, expending 4,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition strafing trucks and buildings; and in 29 sorties over Tinian, expending 31,220 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition strafing aircraft. One P-47 was slight damaged. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - Two P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron on night patrol over Saipan expended 1,440 rounds of 20-mm. ammunition. The airplanes were destroyed in a collision after landing. All personnel were lost. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - Eight P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron on observation mission over Tinian expended 100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

25-26 June 44

WOTJE - Four B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron from Kwajalein dropped 16 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 18,000 to 19,000 feet and 24 x 100-lb. GPs from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, with 38 hits being observed in northwest corner of island. AW moderate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Photos were taken. Distance flown: 375 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-282, 20 June 44.)

26 June 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron and seven of the 431st staged thru 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 th

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26 June 44 (contd)

26th Squadron was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 49 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs and 3,900 Series No. 14 Propaganda Leaflets from 18,300 feet. Only three bombs were observed to hit land. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. Four to five aggressive Zekes intercepted, dropping phosphorous bombs. One Zeke was destroyed. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-278, 29 June 44.)

NAURU - Sixteen B-25's of 498th Bomb Squadron dropped 192 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Nauru 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 M-279, 1 July 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron were over Ponape in three flights, dropping 72 x 100-lb. demolition bombs from 9,500 to 10,900 feet, with 66 per cent falling on Jokaj Island and 34 per cent on new airfield at Ponape. They also dropped 1,980 Series No. 7 Propaganda Leaflets. AA meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-281, 29 June 44.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje from 15,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-28AECD, 26 June 44.)

HALL-EAST FAYU - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Hall from 20,000 feet. Another F-7 photographed Hall and East Fayu from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-29A and P-29BC, 26 June 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian, expending 17,885 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. (Doc. 16, 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 14 sorties over Tinian, expending 9,640 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.)

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26 June 44 (cont'd) Ground echelon of 318th Fighter Group arrived at Saipan. (History of 318th Fighter Group, June 44.)

27 June 44 PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron assigned a daylight mission against Ponape, but all returned abortive because of a solid front 90 miles north of Ponape. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-282, 1 July 44.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian expended 4,400 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 11,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 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-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron in routine combat air patrol over Rota expended 90 rounds of 20-mm. ammunition, hitting one Kate. (Ibid.)

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d staged thru Eniwetok for daylight mission against Truk. One airplane of the 38th 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 Moen airfield, damage undetermined. Twelve bombs fell into the water. AA was moderate to intense, accurate to inaccurate. After bombs away, 10 to 11 phosphorous bombs were dropped by enemy fighters, then the bombers were attacked by two Zekes, a Hamp, and a Tony. The Tony was destroyed. Two B-24's received minor damage. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-279, 30 June 44.)

Ground echelons of 19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons arrived at Saipan. (Histories of 19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons, June 44.)

28 June 44 PONAPE - One B-24 of 27th Bomb Squadron in night radar bombing mission over Ponape dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions at Jokaj Island and 9 x 100-lb. bombs on Narlap Island from 1,500 to 5,000 feet. No AA. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 30 June 44.)

HAMONUITO - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Namonuito in the Carolines from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-30[illegible]

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28 June 44 (contd) TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in three sorties over Tinian, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs, expending 4,700 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 63 rockets; and in 10 sorties over Rota dropping 20 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, VII Fighter Command History, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian expending 3,665 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 29 rockets; four sorties over Saipan expending 6,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and 24 sorties over Rota, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 13,480 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 31 rockets. (Ibid.)

PATROL - Two P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron in night patrols failed to make contact with enemy. (Ibid.)

29 June 44 NAURU - Ten B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 117 x 100-lb. GP bombs on AA batteries at Nauru from 10,000 to 10,500 feet, setting fires and explosions. An additional B-25 was abortive, and one was shot down while on bomb run by moderate to intense AA. Another B-25 received minor damage. Photos were taken. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-283, 3 July 44.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Millo, Maloelap, and Wotje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report F-31ABCD, 29 June 44.)

SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Saipan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 10,170 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in support of ground troops; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 7,550 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 15 sorties over Rota, dropping 30 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 8,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. An additional sortie over Rota was ineffective when one P-47 was lost on take-off. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

ROTA-SAIPAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Rota, dropping 48 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 9,860 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 patrol sorties over Saipan in which no ammunition was expended. (Ibid.)

29-30 June 44 TRUK - Nine B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron, nine of the 26th, and one from Headquarters 11th Bomb Group staged thru Eniwetok in high-altitude daylight bombing mission over Truk. One airplane damaged left wing tip in taxiing and did not

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29-30 June 44 (contd) take off from Eniwetok, and four were abortive. The remaining 14 dropped 63 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 19,500 to 21,000 feet on North Moon airfield, AA batteries, and dispersal area. Four explosions were noted, and two columns of black smoke were visible for 10 miles at 19,000 feet. Meager AA was inaccurate to accurate. Formation was attacked by 4 to 5 single-engine fighters (Tojos, Oscars, Zekes, and Hamps). Four phosphorous bombs were dropped. Three B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 2,411 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-280, 3 July 44.)

30 June 44 PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi assigned to daylight bombing mission over Ponape returned abortive because of unfavorable weather conditions. Distance flown: 335 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-284, 3 July 44.)

PONAPE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Ponape from 16,666 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-32, 30 June 44.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Millo, Maloelap, and Wotje from 11,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-33ABCD, 30 June 44.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs, and expending 19,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in four sorties over Saipan expending 6,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Rota, dropping 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs and expending 10,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Rota, dropping 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs and expending 12,280 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 3,740 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sorties over Saipan, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 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 20 miles east of Saipan, destroyed one Japanese Betty. Three P-61's on routine night patrols made no contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

All airplanes (B-24's) of the 494th Bomb Group (H) had arrived at Kauai from the Mainland. The ground echelon had arrived on 15 June 44. (History of 494th Bomb Group, June 44.)

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20 June 44 (cont'd) "D" Flight, 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron arrived at Kwajalein from Oahu. (History of 28th Photo Rcn Squadron, June 44.)

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1 July 44 TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night bombing mission against Truk. Ten airplanes, over the target individually from 9,000 to 13,500 feet, dropped 118 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions on Moen, 90 per cent on target. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on airstrip at Dublon, 60 per cent on target. AA moderate and inaccurate. AW meager and inaccurate. An unidentified number of fighters dropped three phosphorous bombs and fired tracers 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 M-283, 4 July 44.)

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and nine 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 from 18,000 to 20,000 feet. Of these, 390 hit in area of AA positions on Moen, and 170 fell in vicinity of Moen radio station. AA meager and inaccurate. Interception by three Zekes, one Hamp, and one Tojo. 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 waist gunner. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-284, 4 July 44.)

SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Saipan, dropping 10 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 10,850 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in 11 sorties over Rota, expending 21,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sorties over Tinian, dropping four 500-lb. bombs and expending 7,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 19 sorties over Tinian, dropping 12 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 11,785 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 14 sorties over Rota, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 10,210 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron which went up to intercept bogey over Saipan overshot bogey. (Ibid.)

2 July 44 PONAPE - 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 area. They also dropped 1,960 Series No. 8 Propaganda Leaflets. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Both airfields on Ponape appeared operational. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-285, 5 July 44.)

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2 July 44 (cont'd) SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Saipan, dropping four 500-lb. bombs and expending 11,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expending 11,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Rota, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 18,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was lost on mission over Rota. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Rota, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 4,780 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Saipan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 2,160 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight sorties 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 overshot bogey. (Ibid.)

3 July 44 TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron, including one snooper, staged through Eniwetok for night attack on Truk. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Nine dropped 43 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 16,500 foot. Of these, 18 hit naval base at Dublon, starting a large fire visible for 60 miles at 14,000 feet, and 15 fell on other parts of Dublon Island, starting one fire in Nanko area... One B-24 did not return from mission, cause unknown. AA and AF meager to moderate and inaccurate. One enemy fighter observed airborne. None of the returning B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/S VII BC Mission Report B-235, 6 July 44.)

AGUIJAN-TINIAN-PAGAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Aguijan searching for pilot down at sea; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs; in four sorties over Pagan, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs; and in four sorties over Rota, expending 4,700 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was damaged over Rota. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs. (Ibid.)

4 July 44 ROTA-TINIAN-SAIPAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 10 sorties over Rota, dropping 20 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 4 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sorties over Saipan, dropping 4 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 2,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in support of ground troops. (Ibid.)

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4 July 44 (contd) SAIPAN-TINIAN-AGUIJAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Saipan, dropping 14 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 2,185 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 4,675 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Rota, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,010 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four reconnaissance sorties over Aguijan. (Ibid.)

KOTJE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run over Kotjo from 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 1, 4 July 44.)

JALUIT - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run each over Jaluit from 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 2, 4 July 44.)

5 July 44 TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 431st Bomb Squadron, and one of Headquarters 11th Bomb Group staged through Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Truk. They had remained at Eniwetok 24 hours because of weather conditions. Three were abortive because of engine trouble. Eighteen dropped 400 x 100-lb. and 78 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet. Of the 100-pound bombs, 202 hit in vicinity of AA batteries, 40 on barracks and 40 in center of Moen Island, and remainder went in water. Twelve 500-lb. bombs hit Nanko area, Dublon, 23 fell on Tolan, and 43 went into the water. AA meager and inaccurate. Interceptics by four Zekes and one Hamp. Eleven passes were made and five phosphorous bombs were dropped. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,417 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-286, 8 July 44.)

KOTJE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run at 50 feet over Kotjo, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 3, 5 July 44.)

ROTA-SAIPAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Rota, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs; and in four sorties over Saipan, dropping 2 x 130-lb. Japanese bombs and 3 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 2,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44.)

ROTA-TINIAN-SAIPAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Rota, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs; in 11 sorties over Tinian, dropping 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 8,480 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sorties over Saipan, expending 2,135 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

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5 July 44 (cont'd) SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th 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 Moen, and 96 on Moen, 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 M-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 more abortive because of mechanical trouble. Fifteen dropped 162 x 500-lb. bombs from 16,800 to 19,100 feet, 50 per cent on or near Dublon Naval Base and 50 per cent in the water. One airplane dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Uman from 17,000 feet, 80 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 Zekes and one Tojo were destroyed. One B-24, with gasoline leakage caused by flak, made water landing one mile from Eniwetok. Crew rescued. Three additional B-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,340 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-288, 10 July 44.)

NAURU - Fifty-one B-25's of 41st Bomb Group in daylight mission against Nauru from Makin. Three of 47th Bomb Squadron and one of 48th Bomb Squadron were abortive because of mechanical trouble. Forty-seven dropped 168 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. GPs 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 own bombs. Aircraft taking part in mission: 12 B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, 15 of 48th, 12 of 396th, and 10 of 820th. Distance flown: 928 statute miles. One B-25 of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group acted as observer, remaining over target for 30 minutes after attack. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-286, 10 July 44.)

PONAPE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Ponape from 16,666 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-24, 6 July 44.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-35ABCD, 6 July 44.)

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6 July 44 (contd) MALOELAP - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run over Taroa from 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Report 5, 6 July 44.)

WOTJE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run over Wotje from 40 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Report 4, 6 July 44.)

TINIAN-ROTA - 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. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc 41 - 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 bogey over Saipan, expended 80 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 41 rounds of 20-mm., destroying one Japanese Betty. Two other P-61's up on interceptions lost their contacts. (Ibid.)

Ground echelon of 333d Fighter Squadron arrived at Saipan from Oahu. (History of 333d Fighter Squadron, July 44.)

7 July 44 GUAM-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron on six interception sorties over the Marianas (Guam, Saipan, and Rota), expended 400 rounds of .50-cal. and 130 rounds of 20-mm. ammunition, destroying one Japanese Betty and damaging another. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 41 - July 44.)

NAURU - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Nauru from 20,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report F-36, 7 July 44.)

MALOELAP - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run over Taroa from 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Report 6, 7 July 44.)

MILLE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run over Mille from an altitude of 40 feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recn 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. Holzapfel. (GO 2, Hq. 11th Bomb Group)

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8 July 44 TRUK - Nine B-24's of the 98th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok in night strike against Truk, dropping 44 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 21,500 foot, as follows: 24 on Dublon, five on Moen, five on Eten, and 10 on Tol, with 70 per cent hitting land. AA moderate but inaccurate. Five searchlights picked up airplanes very quickly. No interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,417 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-289, 11 July 44.)

MILLE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one photo run over Mille at 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Report 8, 8 July 44.)

PAGAN-SAIPAN - 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. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

PAGAN-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 2,240 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.)

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in daylight attack on Truk. Four were abortive because of mechanical difficulties. Fifteen dropped 690 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 to 20,500 feet, 63 per cent falling on central and eastern part of Param, and 37 per cent in the water. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Interception of four Zekes, one Tony, and one Tojo. Two B-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,732 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-290, 12 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, expending 4,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 11 rockets. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - 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 airplanes orbited while the United States flag went up on Marpi Field. (Ibid.)

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9-10 July 44 — JALUIT - Four B-25's of the 820th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 75 to 100 feet, and strafed the island with 4,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and four 75-mm. HE shells, with results unobserved. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and hit Jaluit again with 24 x 100-lb. GPs from 75 feet and strafing 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 M-287, 13 July 44.)

10 July 44 — TRUK - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok in night strike against Truk, dropping 360 x 100-lb. GP bombs on East side of Moen 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 was damaged. Distance flown: 2,340 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-291, 13 July 44.)

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in daylight attack on Truk. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and one did not take off from Eniwetok because of damage to left wing tip by water truck. Eighteen, over the target from 18,000 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 was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-292, 16 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 12,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, destroying a gun position. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-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 Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-37ABCD, 10 July 44.)

11 July 44 — TINIAN - P-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 - P-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; an[illegible] over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bom[illegible] One P-47 was hit by AA over Tinian, [illegible] Pagan were fired on by heaviest and

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11 July 44 (cont'd) fighter planes had up to this time encountered in the Marianas. (S 44.)

[illegible] Flight of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron arrived at Saipan from Oahu. (History of 28th Photo Rcn Squadron, July 44.)

12 July 44 TRUK - Nine B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok for night attack on Truk. One airplane failed to reach the target because of a gasoline leak. The remaining eight airplanes flew individually to Truk and dropped 76 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,500 to 17,500 feet, as follows: 30 on Dublon, 28 on Moen, 10 on Eten, and 10 on Uman. AA and AW meager and inaccurate. Seven to 14 searchlights, with heaviest concentration from Dublon. Lead plane attacked by two single-engine fighters. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,417 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report B-293, 14 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 3,860 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs. (Ibid.)

INTERCEPTION - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron, up to intercept bogey over Saipan, was notified that it was Navy FEM after firing 720 rounds of .50-cal. and 235 rounds of 20-mm. ammunition. (Ibid.)

13 July 44 TRUK - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in daylight attack on Truk. Ten dropped 350 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Dublon from 20,000 feet, 23 per cent on land. Seven dropped 280 x 100-lb. GPs on Moen, 75 per cent in vicinity of AA installations and hangar area. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Dublon seaplane base from 19,000 feet, 75 per cent on target. AA moderate, and inaccurate to accurate. Interception by 12 to 15 Zekes, two Tojos and two Hamps. About 50 passes were made, and 32 to 37 aerial bombs were dropped. Five Zekes were destroyed, one was probably destroyed, and four were damaged. Three B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 2,510 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report B-294, 16 July 44.)

TRUK - 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 Moen and Param, with results largely unobserved because of cloud cover. AA meager and inaccurate. 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 (cont'd) of one plane was lost overboard without his parachute at 13,000 feet while trying to jettison hung-up bombs. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-295, 16 July 44.)

PONAPE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Ponape from 16,665 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-38, 13 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, expending 3,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 36 rockets. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-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. (Ibid.)

14 July 44 NAURU - Forty-one B-25's from the 41st Bomb Group (including nine from the 47th Bomb Squadron, 12 from the 48th, 10 from the 396th, and 11 from the 820th) raided Nauru with 76 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters and 246 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 4,500 to 7,000 feet, with an estimated 90 per cent hitting Ocre Town. AA moderate to meagor, inaccurate to accurate. AW fire meagor and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. An additional B-25 was abortive because of engine trouble. Distance flown: 1,015 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-288, 17 July 44.)

NAURU - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Nauru from 20,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-41, 14 July 44.)

PONAPE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Ponape from 16,665 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-39, 14 July 44.)

TOKYO-MALOELAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Kotjo and Maloelap from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron, Mission Report P-40AB, 14 July 44.)

SAIPAN-TINIAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan made one run on Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, and one run over Tinian Harbor, all from 10,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 2, 14 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-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. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

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14 July 44 (cont'd) TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, expending 4,770 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 22 rockets. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan took low altitude obliques of beach areas on Tinian from 50 feet. Mission unsuccessful because of camera failure. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Report 1, 14 July 44.)

15 July 44 TRUK - Nine B-24's of 38th 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 20,863 feet, none of which hit the AA installations on Param which were the assigned targets. Twenty fell on northwest shore of Param, and the remainder fell into the water or were unobserved. AA moderate to intense, accurate to inaccurate. Interception by 10 to 12 Zekes, Hamps, Oscars, Tojos, and one possible Tony. Two Zekes were damaged. Six B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-296, 19 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian, dropping 54 x 500-lb. and two 1,000-pound bombs, and expending 13,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in an attempt to level housing area. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - 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 level housing area. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - Two F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan took low obliques of beach areas on Tinian from 49 and 50 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Reports 3 and 4, 15 July 44.)

16 July 44 TINIAN - P-47's of 19th 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 Pagan, dropping 12 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 6,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian, dropping 46 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 5,268 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan 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 mosaic of island from 10,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Reports 6, 7, 8, and 9, 16 July 44.)

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17 July 44 PONAPE - Thirteen B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, and 12 each from the 48th, 395th, and 820th Bomb Squadrons assigned to daylight mission against Ponape from Engebi and Eniwetok. One did not take off and one was abortive, both due to engine trouble. Forty-seven dropped 546 x 100-lb. parafrag clusters and strafed with 329 rounds of 75-mm. and 67,850 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 50 to 1,500 feet. In addition, Series No. 9 Propaganda Leaflets were dropped. Bombs hit as follows: 270 on Jokaj Island, 32 on or near airfield on Ponape Island, 46 on Nanu, 36 on Temoroi District, and 48 between Palikadoe and Lot. AA meager and inaccurate. AW and MG moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Both airfields appeared inoperational. Distance flown: 973 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-289, 23 July 44.)

TINIAN - 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. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 11 sorties against Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 12,420 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan made vertical mosaic of Tinian from 10,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 10, 17 July 44.)

18 July 44 WOTJE - Four B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and one of 27th Bomb Squadron in high-altitude daylight bombing mission of Wotje from Kwajalein. They dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,000 to 17,000 feet, with 70 per cent hitting in target area. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 361 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-300, 21 July 44.)

WOTJE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein took low obliques of gun position on Wotje from 50 feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 9, 18 July 44.)

PONAPE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Ponape from 14,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-42, 18 July 44.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Pagan, expending 14,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 22 x 500-lb. and two 100-lb. bombs and expending 17,350 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was damaged by AA fire over Pagan. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc.

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18 July 44 (contd) PAGAN-TINIAN - P-47's of 73d 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 8,546 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 25 rockets. (Ibid.)

PAGAN - Two F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan in missions over Pagan made strip mosaic of island from 12,000 feet, and took high altitude obliques of airfield and heavy AA emplacements from 3,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Reports 12 and 13, 18 July 44.)

Flight personnel of 333d Fighter Squadron arrived at Isley Field, Saipan. (History of 333d Fighter Squadron, July 44.)

19 July 44 TRUK - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron, nine of 96th Bomb Squadron, and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for daylight strike against Truk. Three were abortive because of engine trouble. Fourteen dropped 140 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 17,400 to 19,000 feet on Dublon Naval Base, 25 per cent on target, 7 per cent near target, 40 per cent in water, and 28 per cent unobserved. Three dropped 30 x 500-lb. GPs on floating drydock in Honko area from 18,400 to 20,000 feet, 7 per cent scored near misses, and 93 per cent went in water. Seven dropped 70 x 500-lb. GPs on defense unit and barracks on northeast tip of Dublon from 18,000 feet, 36 per cent on target, and 64 per cent in water. One dropped 10 x 500-lb. GPs on AA positions on east part of Dublon from 17,100 feet, 100 per cent near center of Moen Island. AA moderate, and inaccurate to accurate. Interception by six Zekes, 1 to 2 Hamps, and one Tojo. Approximately 25 passes were made, and 12 to 13 aerial bombs were dropped. Two Zekes and one Tojo were damaged. Seven B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,427 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-297, 22 July 44.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed islands in the Marshalls from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-43APCD, 19 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian, dropping 46 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 27,750 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian, dropping 23 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 5,030 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 40 rockets. (Ibid.)

MALOELAP - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made one run over Taroa from 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Mission Report 10, 19 July 44.)

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19 July 44 (contd) MILLE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein took low obliques of Mille from 100 feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 11, 19 July 44.)

TINIAN - Two F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Saipan photographed beaches at Tinian and made high obliques of north coast of island from 1,500 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn 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.)

PONAPE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 144 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on Jokaj Island from 3,500 to 4,200 feet, with all bombs straddling gun positions. Strafed with 3,780 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and dropped Series No. 10 Propaganda Leaflets. AA and AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-290, 23 July 44.)

WOTJE-MALOELAP - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Wotje and Maloelap from 50 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 13, 20 July 44.)

JALUIT - One F-5 of 28th Photo Rcn Squadron at Kwajalein made low obliques of Jaluit from 50 feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 12, 20 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 32 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,970 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 13,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in four sorties over Tinian from Saipan, photographing from 1,500 to 2,500 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Reports 17, 18, 19, and 20, 20 July 44.)

SAIPAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in vertical mapping mission over Tanapag Harbor and Roof. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 16, 20 July 44.)

21 July 44 TRUK - Thirty B-24's, including nine of 27th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 38th Bomb Squadron, and 11 of 392d Bomb Squadron, staged through Eniwetok for daylight strike against Truk. Two more

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21 July 44 (cont'd) abortive because of mechanical difficulties. Twenty-eight dropped 103 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 48 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 .50-cal. ammunition. Of the 500-lb. bombs, 44 fell on Moen, Moagon, and Nwop, and the remainder went in the water or were unobserved. All but six of the 1,000-lb. GPs fell on land on Ulalu, Tol, and Dublon. All but two of the 1,000-lb. SAPs fell on land on Moen, Dublon, Moagon, and Faram, with hits unobserved. AA meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (7/E VII BC Mission Report H-298, 26 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 10,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 35 sorties over Tinian dropped 70 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 29,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian dropped 47 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 8,635 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in two sorties over Tinian from Saipan, making low obliques of beach from 50 feet, and low verticals from 1,500 to 2,500 feet. No AA. (C Rit, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 11, 21 July 44.)

22 July 44 PONAPE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 144 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on heavy AA batteries on Jokaj Island from 4,100 feet, with 83 per cent straddling targets. After the bomb run they strafed with 19 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, focussing attacks on Not Harbor and District, Jokaj, Ponape Town, Faram, and Japutik. Dropped Series No. 11 Propaganda Leaflets. AA meager and inaccurate. All moderate and accurate, causing moderate damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 990 statute miles. (7/E VII BC Mission Report H-291, 26 July 44.)

TRUK - Two F-7's of 26th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Truk from 20,000 feet. (26th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-44A and P-44B, 22 July 44.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47's 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

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22 July 44 (contd) over Pagan dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 17 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs, four 165-gal. wing tanks, and three 100-gal. belly tanks, and expended 1,740 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 27 sorties over Tinian dropped 48 x 500-lb. bombs and four 165-gal. wing tanks, and expended 19,125 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight sorties over Pagan expended 5,360 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in four sorties over Tinian, making vertical mosaic of island at 10,000 feet, and photographing damage done by P-47 fire bombs at 50 feet and 14,500 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Reports 23, 24, 25, and 26, 22 July 44.)

23 July 44 MAUKU - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron and 12 of 396th Bomb Squadron assigned to daylight bombing strike against Maura from Walkin. Four airplanes were abortive because of mechanical difficulties. The remaining 20 dropped 79 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 4,500 to 7,000 foot, with majority falling in Orro Town area. AA meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to two airplanes and major damage to one. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-295, 29 July 44.)

PONAPE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Saipan, photographed Ponape from 16,666 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-45, 23 July 44.)

TINIAN - Fourth Marine Division, and one battalion, 2d Marine Division land on Tinian. (7 AF Intelligence Summary No. 44, 5 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 58 sorties over Tinian dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs, and 42 fire bombs, and expended 34,980 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 30 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and 12 fire bombs, and expended 15,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 38 sorties over Tinian dropped 31 x 500-lb. bombs and 20 fire bombs and expended 34,375 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 17 rockets. (Ibid.)

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23 July 44 (cont'd) TINIAN - P-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in three sorties over Tinian from Saipan, getting low obliques and verticals of bomb damage on beaches. No AA. (C.Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Reports 27, 28, and 29, 23 July 44.)

Ground echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron and 12 crews and airplanes arrived at Saipan from Makin. Six crews and airplanes arrived on 27 July. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron, July 44.)

24 July 44 TRUK - Twenty-seven B-24's, including eight of 26th Bomb Squadron, nine of 98th Bomb Squadron, and 10 of 431st Bomb Squadron, staged through Eniwetok for daylight strike against Truk. They dropped 44 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 50 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs, and 60 x 500-lb. GPs from 19,500 to 20,500 feet. Of the 1,000-lb. GPs, 39 fell in Dublen Town area and five went in the water. Of the 1,000-lb. SAPs, 22 hit Eten Island and 26 went in the water. Of the 500-pounders, 40 hit north airfield on Moen, and 40 went in the water or were unobserved. AA meager, accurate to inaccurate. Interception by 5 to 6 Zekes, one Tojo, and one Hamp. They made 17 to 20 passes and dropped 12 to 15 aerial bombs. B-24's expended 21,330 rounds of .50-cal. and 1,255 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition, damaging three Zekes and one Tojo. Three B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 2,432 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-299, 30 July 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron assigned to daylight, medium altitude radar bombing mission over Wotje. One B-24 of Headquarters 30th Bomb Group accompanied the mission for observation purposes only. One airplane was abortive. Eight dropped 46 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,500 to 11,600 feet in three bomb runs during each of which each airplane dropped two bombs. All airplanes dropped bombs on lead airplane which was radar controlled. Ninety per cent of the bombs hit the target. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-304, 26 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 14 sorties over Tinian dropped 16 fire bombs and expended 17,685 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Two of the sorties were for the purpose of beach marking for assault troops. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 15 sorties over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 12,270 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight sorties over Rota, expending 5,565 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was hit by AA over Tinian, and four assigned to mission over Rota were abortive. (Ibid.)

TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 26 sorties over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 19,280 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Rota,

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24 July 44 (contd) dropping 23 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 3,570 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

The 318th Fighter Group moved from Isely Field to East Field on Saipan. (History of 318th Fighter Group, July 44.)

AGUIJAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Aguijan from Saipan, making vertical mosaic from 8,000 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron, Interrogation Report 30, 24 July 44.)

24-25 July 44 PCHAPE - Eleven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj 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 Series No. 12 Propaganda Leaflets. AA meager and inaccurate. AF meager, accurate to inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Old airfield appeared inoperational; new airfield, operational. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-292, 25 July 44.)

25 July 44 TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 31 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and eight fire bombs, and expended 18,850 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 31 sorties over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 12,545 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight sorties over Pagan, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 4,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 40 sorties over Tinian, dropping 48 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 65,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Pagan, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 4,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

PAGAN - F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in two sorties over Pagan from Saipan, getting vertical coverage of airfields from 9,500 to 14,000 feet. On one sortie, two inaccurate bursts of AA were observed. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Interrogation Report 31, 25 July 44.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-46ABCD, 25 July 44.)

The 819th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group (H) arrived at Saipan from Oahu. (Unit History, 819th Bomb

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25-26 July 44 — TRUK - One B-24 of [illegible] Bomb Squadron and one of 38th Bomb Squadron in night snooper missions over Truk dropped 22 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,600 and 16,000 feet. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-301, 30 July 44.)

TRUK - Twenty-eight B-24's of the 30th Bomb Group, including eight of the 27th Bomb Squadron, nine of the 38th 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 18,300 to 20,150 feet, with bombs falling on Dublon Naval Base and buildings in northwest Dublon. 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 Zekes, Hamps, and Tojos caused minor damage to another airplane and wounded the nose gunner. Eight to 12 aerial bombs were dropped. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (Ibid.)

26 July 44 — Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 144 x 100-lb. GP bombs on AW positions on Langar Island from 4,000 feet, with 75 per cent hitting target area. One building was destroyed. They also dropped Series No. 13 Propaganda Leaflets. AA and AW meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-293, 29 July 44.)

TINIAN - Five B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Isely Field, Saipan, briefed in air by Air Support Director at Orbit Point for deep support of ground troops on Tinian. Four of them dropped eight 1,000-lb. bombs from 500 to 800 feet on gun positions 1,000 yards south of new airfield 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 meager and inaccurate small arms fire which did no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air: 200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 1, 7 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Isely Field, Saipan, briefed in air by Air Support Director for deep 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 west of Marpo Point, with all bombs hitting target areas. They expended 9,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 45 x 75-mm. shells in strafing. Two airplanes encountered moderate and inaccurate AW 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 2, n.d.)

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26 July 44 (cont'd) TINIAN - Two B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron from Isely 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. (F/E VII 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 24,610 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 43 sorties over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 39,140 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 30 sorties over Tinian dropped 44 x 500-lb. bombs and four fire bombs and expended 39,965 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Tinian from Saipan, making low obliques of suspected gun position from 50 to 1,000 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Interrogation Report 35, 26 July 44.)

AGUIJAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Aguijan from Saipan, making mosaic of island from 8,000 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recn Squadron Interrogation Report 33, 26 July 44.)

27 July 44 WOTJE - One B-24 of 27th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein in practice radar 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 beached ship. No AA or interception. (F/E VII 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 800 feet. One airplane in addition strafed gun positions on cliffs west of Marpo Point, expending 11 x 75-mm. shells and 500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Tinian 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. GPs 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 SA fire caused three small dents in fuselage of one airplane. One B-25 extensively damaged when it slid off runway after landing. Distance flown, based on time in air: 300 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 3, 9 Aug. 44.)

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27 July 44 (contd)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 47 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs, six fire bombs, and expended 51,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 58 sorties over Tinian dropped 46 x 500-lb. bombs and two fire bombs and expended 39,350 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 21 sorties over Tinian dropped 26 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 11,560 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in two sorties over Tinian from Saipan, making low obliques and verticals of area in front of allied front lines from 50 to 1,000 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Ren Squadron Interrogation Reports 36 and 37, 27 July 44.)

PAGAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Pagan from Saipan, photographing airfield and surroundings from 8,000 to 8,500 feet. One inaccurate burst of AA observed. (C Flt, 28th Photo Ren Squadron Interrogation Report 34, 27 July 44.)

PONAPE - Two F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein staged through Eniwetok in mission against Ponape, getting obliques at 50 and 900 feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Ren Squadron Mission Reports 14 and 15, 27 July 44.)

MARSHALLS - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports F-47ABCD, 27 July 44.)

Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron arrived at Saipan from Makin. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron, July 44.)

27-28 July 44

JALUIT - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 32 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit Island from 50 to 200 feet, and expended eight 75-mm. shells and 4,560 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing and commanding. Meager and accurate AW caused minor damage to one airplane. All airplanes landed at Majuro, and two returned to Jaluit, dropping 17 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Agidyen Island from 50 feet, and expended 3,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and four 75-mm. shells in strafing. AW meager and inaccurate. Distance flown, each strike: 419 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-296, 31 July 44.)

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27-28 July 44 (contd) TINIAN - Two B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan assigned observation mission over Tinian, with Marine officers as observers. One returned abortive, and the other was in the air over Tinian for approximately three hours and 15 minutes at an average altitude of 100 feet. (F/E VII BC, Special Mission Tinian Observation O-3, 8 Aug. 44.)

28 July 44 TRUK - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 98th 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 248 x 500-lb. GPs on Param Island with 147 hitting target area. AA meager and accurate to inaccurate. Intercepted by eight Zekes, one Tojo, and one possible Hamp. Approximately 26 to 28 passes were made. Eleven to 13 phosphorous bombs were dropped, many being dropped within 150 to 200 feet of our airplanes, showing increasing accuracy. Enemy pilots experienced and aggressive. Our airplanes expended 20,255 rounds of .50-cal. and 1,520 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. Five Zekes were destroyed; one Zeke 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 BC 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 was over island approximately four hours and 45 minutes and the other approximately two hours. (F/E VII BC, Special Mission Tinian Observation O-4, 8 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 BC Special Mission Tinian Observation O-5, 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 Town from 300 to 1,000-feet, 100 per cent in target, and expended 10,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 63 x 75-mm. shells in strafing the area. SA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air: 220 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 4, 10 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 46 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and four fire bombs, and expended 25,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 crashed in low altitude attack. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

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28 July 44 (cont'd) TINIAN - P-47's of 62d Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 31,125 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 28,815 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

The 333d Fighter Squadron moved from Isely Field to East Field on Saipan. (History of 333d Fighter Squadron, July 44.)

29 July 44 PCNAFE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj Island from 1,200 to 2,700 feet, 65 per cent in target area. Strafed with 30 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and dropped Series No. 14 Propaganda Leaflets. AA meager and inaccurate. AW meager to moderate and inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. New airfield appeared operational. Distance flown: 910 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report M-294, 3 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian dropped 10 x 500-lb. bombs and four fire bombs, and expended 23,050 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. M, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 44 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 36,445 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 3,320 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Tinian from Saipan, getting vertical coverage from 10,000 feet, and making oblique runs from 1,500 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Interrogation Report 38, 29 July 44.)

29-30 July 44 TRUK - Ten B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 392d Bomb Squadron, and nine of the 38th Bomb Squadron assigned to a daylight high-altitude mission against Truk from Eniwetok. Twenty-five of the B-24's, over Truk during daylight from 18,500 to 20,300 feet, dropped 293 x 500-lb. GP bombs. The four remaining airplanes, failing to take off on the day mission, went over Truk at night, with the exception of one abortive, dropping 34 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 17,000 feet. Of the bombs dropped, 149 hit the primary target, Dublon, 68 were dropped on Eten, and 10 on Moen, with the remainder unobserved or falling in the water. AA meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two airplanes on the night

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29-30 July 44 (contd)

mission report 12 to 15 inaccurate searchlights. Two day formation was intercepted by five to seven Zekes, one Oscar, and one Tojo. They made eight to 12 passes and dropped eight to 12 phosphorous bombs. Three enemy aircraft were destroyed. Three B-24's received minor damage, and two crew members were wounded. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report B-393, 3 Aug. 44.)

30 July 44

TINIAN - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan briefed in air by Air Support Director for deep 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 targets. They made a second run using 16 x 75-mm. shells and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Meager and inaccurate SA fire caused no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air: 150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Tinian No. 5, 10 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 20 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 4,000 feet, 100 per cent in target areas. Meager and inaccurate SA fire did no damage. Distance flown: 200 statute miles. (Ibid., No. 6, 10 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - One B-25 of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan over Tinian one hour and 15 minutes in observation mission dropped leaflets and expended five 75-mm. shells and 1,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition with undetermined results. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Tinian Observation O-6, 9 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian expended 14,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 36 sorties over Tinian expended 45,770 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 332d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian expended 17,470 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Airplanes on 12 other sorties could not attack because of naval artillery fire. (Ibid.)

MILLE - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kwajalein made three photo runs over Mille at 50 foot, getting obliques. (B Plt, 28th Photo Rcn Squadron Mission Report 16, 30 July 44.)

30-31 July 44

JALUIT - Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 100-lb. bombs on Jaluit from 50 foot, and expended eight 75-mm. shells and 4,200 rounds of .50-cal.

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30-31 July 44 (contd) with results unobserved. Airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip hit Agidyam Island, Jaluit, with 12 x 100-lb bombs from 50 feet, and expended 13 x 75-mm. shells and 4,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, results undetermined. Distance flown, each strike: 425 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-297, 7 Aug. 44.)

31 July 44 NAURU - Twelve B-25's of the 396th Bomb Squadron and nine of the 478th at Makin dropped 252 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Nauru from 6,700 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. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-298, 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 Marpo Point, Tinian, dropped 32 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 3,500 to 4,000 feet, with 31 hitting target areas. No AA or interception, and no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air: 180 miles; based on distance to target, 10 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Tinian No. 7, 10 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties against Tinian dropped 32 x 500-lb. bombs. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties against Tinian dropped 46 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 2,035 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d 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. (Ibid.)

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G L O S S A R Y

Organizations

AAFPOA	Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas
ASCOS	Air Service Support Squadron
CENTAGS	Central Pacific Combat Air Transport Service
CINCPAC	Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet
CINCPOA	Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas
COMAIRCENPAC	Commander Aircraft, Central Pacific Force
COMAIRFORWD-	Commander Shore-Based Aircraft, Forward Area
COMCENPAC	Commander, Central Pacific Force
CTF	Commander Task Force
CTG	Commander Task Group
HDQS.	Headquarters, Central Pacific Area
ICPOA	Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas
JICPOA	Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas
PHOTOINT	Photographic Reconnaissance and Interpretation Section, Intelligence Center, POA
7AF	Seventh Air Force
VII BC	VII Bomber Command
VII FC	VII Fighter Command
USAFICPA	U. S. Army Forces in Central Pacific Area

Occupied Gilbert Areas

GALVANIC	Makin, Apamama
FLINTLOCK	Kwajalein, Majuro
CATCHPOLE	Eniwetok
FORAGER	Southern Marianas (Saipan, Tinian, Guam)

Designations of Japanese Aircraft

Betty	Twin-engine medium bomber
Fred	Ki-100, when used by Japanese
Hap	Single-engine fighter
Hamp	Single-engine fighter
Nell	Twin-engine medium bomber
Oscar	Single-engine fighter
Pete	Single-engine fleet biplane (seaplane)
Tony	Single-engine fighter
Zeke	Single-engine fighter

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Miscellaneous

AA	Antiaircraft fire
ADVON	Advanced Headquarters
AG 7AF	Adjutant General's Files, Seventh Air Force
AI	Automatic-weapons fire
Bogie	Pip on radar screen indicating presence of aircraft; or unidentified aircraft so indicated
CI	Classified message
C/S	Chief of Staff
Dumbo	An aircraft equipped for emergency sea rescue
F/E	Forward Echelon
FO	Field Order
GP Bomb	General-purpose bomb
HE	Heavy-gun fire
PI	Photographic intelligence or interpretation
PID	Photographic interpretation detachment
RDF	Radio direction finder
SA	Small-arms fire
SAP bomb	Semi-armor-piercing bomb
SCU	Statistical control unit

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

This list of sources indicates those documents which have been designated by AAFFOA as most useful in the preparation of the study and includes (1) exhibits originally attached to the study, (2) general materials previously submitted by AAFFOA which have reference 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, AAFFOA, may be consulted in archives of the Sources and Editorial Division, AAF Historical Office:

GALVANIC Operation Plans (Exhibit I)

United States Pacific Fleet, Central Pacific Force, Pearl Harbor, T. H., Operation Plan No. Con 1-43, 25 Oct 1943, with annexes.

United States Pacific Fleet, Central Pacific Force, Defense Forces and Shore Based Aircraft (Task Force Fifty-Seven), Operation Plan No. 1-43, 27 Oct 1943, with Annexes.

FLINTLOCK Operation Plans (Exhibit II)

United States Pacific Fleet, Central Pacific Force, Pearl Harbor, T. H., Operation Plan No. Con 1-44, 6 Jan. 1944, with annexes.

United States Pacific Fleet, Central Pacific Force, Defense Forces and Land Based Aircraft (Task Force Fifty-Seven), Operation Plan No. 1-44, 13 Jan. 1944, with annexes.

CATCHPOLE Operation Plans (Exhibit III)

United States Pacific Fleet, Central Pacific Force, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands, Operation Plan No. Con 4-44, 9 Feb. 1944.

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 Force, Defense Forces and Land Based Aircraft, Forward Area (Task Force Fifty-Seven), Operation Plan No. 2-44, 24 Feb. 1944, with annexes.

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United States Pacific Fleet, Central Pacific Force, Commander Truk Striking Force, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands, Operation Plan No. Com 5-44, 10 Feb. 1944, with annexes.

Field Orders in Gilberts and Marshalls Campaign (Exhibit A7)

Field Orders of Hq., Seventh Air Force, from FO 1, 1 Nov. 1943 to FO 32A, 16 March 1944.

Field Orders of Hq., VII Bomber Command, from 23 Dec. 1943 to 22 March 1944, plus FO's for 7 and 30 Nov. 1943.

Operation of the Seventh Air Force, 3 March 1944 to 15 Aug. 1944 (Exhibit V)
Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., Commanding General, Seventh Air Force, to Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, 1 Oct. 1944, with inclosures.

Studies and Operations Plans (Exhibit VI)

Information Relating to the Seventh Air Force, 1 Nov. 1943 to 1 Nov. 1944 (Item A).

Extract from CINCPOA-CINCPAC FORAGER Joint Staff Study, 20 March 1944 (Item B).

Hq., VII Bomber Command, Operations of the Seventh Bomber Command inthe Marshall Islands Offensive, 15 Sept. 1944 (Item C).

Hq., CG AIRFWD Operation Plan No. 2-44, 25 May 1944 (Item D).

Distribution of Land Based Aviation Units in GALVANIC (Item E).

Air Evacuation in FLINTLOCK (Item F).

Aircraft Approach Procedure in Gilberts, Nov.-Dec. 1943 (Item G).

Search Plans, Nov. 1943-Feb. 1944 (Item H)

Air Action Summaries, Maldin, 16 Dec. 1943-1 Feb. 1944 (Item I)

Defense of Base, Maldin, 18 Jan. 1944 (Item J).

Correspondence on P-39 and P-40 Modifications (Item K).

Flak Information (Exhibit VII)
ADVON Hq., Seventh Air Force, Office of AC of S, A-2, APO #240, Flak Analysis No. 1, Preliminary Analysis of the Heavy AA Gun Defenses of Ponape, 12 March 1944, with inclosure (Item A).

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Hq., VII Bomber Command, Office of the A-2, APO #241, Flak Analysis No. 2, Preliminary Analysis of the Heavy AA Gun Defenses of Truk, 21 April 1944, with inclosures (Item B).

Hq., VII Bomber Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, APO #241, Flak Analysis No. 3, Heavy AA Gun Defenses of Ponape, 26 May 1944, with inclosure (Item C).

Hq., VII Bomber Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, APO #241, Flak Analysis No. 4, Preliminary Analysis of the Heavy AA Gun Defenses of Tinian, 30 May 1944, with inclosures (Item D).

Hq. VII Bomber Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, APO #241, Flak Analysis No. 5, Heavy AA Gun Defenses of Truk, 9 June 1944, with inclosures (Item E).

ADVON Hq., Seventh Air Force, Office of the AC of S, A-2, APO #240, Japanese Anti-Aircraft Gun Defenses of Island Objectives, 10 Jan. 1944, with annexes (Item F).

ADVON Hq., Seventh Air Force, Office of the AC of S, A-2, APO #240, Deceptive Measures and Evasive Action Against Japanese Anti-Aircraft Defenses, 27 Jan. 1944 (Item G).

Operations Statistics (Exhibit VIII)

9th Statistical Control Unit Reports

Summary of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged by Airplanes of Seventh Air Force Fighter Squadrons, Dec. 1941-June 1944 (Item A).

Estimated Destruction and Damage of Enemy Shipping, Dec. 1941-June 1944 (Item B).

Summary of Rate of Attrition of Aircraft and Combat Crews of Seventh Air Force during Combat Operations, Nov. 1943-May 1944 (Item C).

Total Bomb and Ammunition Consumption of Tactical Units, Seventh Air Force, Nov. 1943-June 1944 (Item D).

COMAIRCENPAC

Enemy Aircraft Destroyed and Enemy Shipping Attacked, Jan. 1944 (Item E)
Enemy Aircraft Destroyed and Enemy Shipping Attacked, Feb. 1944 (Item F)
Air Strike Data, 1 Jan. to 1 Feb. 1944 (Item G).
Air Strike Data, 1 Feb. to 1 March 1944 (Item H)

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VII Fighter Command Mission Reports, 23 Dec. 1943-8 Mar. 1944 (Item I)

PI Reports - Maloelap (Exhibit IX)

PI Reports - Wilie (Exhibit X)

PI Reports - Jaluit (Exhibit XI)

PI Reports - Wotje (Exhibit XII)

PI Reports - Ocean and Nauru (Exhibit XIII)

PI Reports - Eniwetok and Kwajalein (Exhibit XIV)

PI Reports - Apamama, Makin, Tarawa (Exhibit XV)

PI Reports - Lesser Gilberts (Exhibit XVI)

PI Reports - Lesser Marshalls (Exhibits XVII)

Maps Relating to GALVANIC (Exhibit XVIII)

9th SCU Report - Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, Carolines, and Marianas, April 1944-July 1944 (Exhibit XIX)

Other Materials

The following items forwarded by AAFFOA also have relevance to the present study and may be consulted in the files of the AAF Historical Office:

Mission Reports, ADVON, 14 Nov.-5 Dec. 1943.

Seventh Air Force Operations in Gilberts, Marshalls, and Carolines, Nov. 1943-March 1944.

Operations of the Seventh Air Force, 1 Feb.-2 March 1944.

ADVON Fighter-Bomber Mission Reports, 24 Dec. 1943-14 March 1944.

ADVON Fighter Mission Reports, 19 Dec. 1943-11 March 1944.

Army Bases on Ellice and Gilbert Islands, 11 Nov. 1943-16 Jan. 1944

Operation Plan 1-43.

VII Bomber Command Mission Reports, 8 Dec. 1943-19 March 1944.

The Power of the Heavies in the GALVANIC Operation.

Mission Reports, 41st Bomb Group, 31 Dec. 1943-

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Seventh Air Force Participation in the CALVANIC Operation.

Seventh Air Force Participation in the FLINTLOCK-CATCHPOLE Operation.

A-3 7AF War Diary, 1 Nov. 1943-22 March 1944.

Envelope: Data on CALVANIC and FLINTLOCK Operations.

Histories of Tactical Units

The following units assigned to the Seventh Air Force have prepared histories which may be consulted in the AAF Historical Office files:

Headquarters, VII Bomber Command
- 11th Bomb Group (H)
  - 26th Bomb Squadron (H)
  - 42d Bomb Squadron (H)
  - 98th Bomb Squadron (H)
  - 431st Bomb Squadron (H)
- 30th Bomb Group (H)
  - 27th Bomb Squadron (H)
  - 38th Bomb Squadron (H)
  - 392d Bomb Squadron (H)
  - 819th Bomb Squadron (H)
- 41st Bomb Group (M)
  - 47th Bomb Squadron (M)
  - 60th Bomb Squadron (M)
  - 396th Bomb Squadron (M)
  - 820th Bomb Squadron (M)

Headquarters, VII Fighter Command
- 45th Fighter Squadron
- 46th Fighter Squadron
- 72d Fighter Squadron
- 531st Fighter Squadron
- 6th Night Fighter Squadron
- 318th Fighter Group
  - 19th Fighter Squadron
  - 73d Fighter Squadron
  - 333d Fighter Squadron

35th Combat Mapping Squadron
28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron

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